



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Old House on 24th Street To Be Replaced With Condos

By Corrie M. Anders

A small, nondescript house across from Bell Market, which has sat forlornly since its owners died, is poised for reincarnation as 24th Street's newest residential-commercial enterprise.

A group of real estate developers purchased the uninhabited property last spring and has filed preliminary plans with the city to demolish the house and construct a four-story, contemporary-style building on the site. The new structure would include ground-floor space for two businesses, four condominiums on the upper floors, and an underground garage with an unusual design, according to the proposal.

The project requires formal approval from the city, and public hearings will be held. But no date has yet been set to elicit the views of nearby residents and neighborhood groups—for a project that could be considerably taller than the adjacent buildings.

For years, until their death, Robert and Evelyn Lunny owned the property at 3953 24th Street, built in 1900. The modest two-story dwelling consisted of five rooms with 1,040 square feet of living space, and was one of the few purely residential properties on the busy block of 24th between Sanchez and Noe. The building's beige-with-blue-trim facade and unadorned windows scarcely drew a glance from passersby.

Ants Invade Noe Valley!

Residents Draw a Line in the Rug

By Sharon Gillenwater

If you have been battling ants this winter, you are not alone. Ants have been marching mercilessly through Noe Valley homes for several months.

It all began last November, when a couple of ferocious storms drenched Northern California with more than the usual rainfall. The ants arrived just in time for Thanksgiving, and from all accounts they have stayed well into the new year.

Michele Conway, who lives at Church and 27th streets, has had ants in her bathroom for more than two months. Ant traps alleviated the problem for a couple of weeks, but now she says there are "tons of ants" again.

In December, Kelly Melendez woke up in her Diamond Street home to find ants feasting on a plate of ginger molasses cookies she had made the night before. She also spotted ants in her recycling bag, in the bathroom, and camped in the middle of the living room carpet. "I thought our house was planted on top of an ant-hill," she says, relieved to hear that others have also been having ant problems.

While Alannah McPherson was away



The new owners of this pre-1906 house at 3953 24th Street plan to demolish the building and construct a four-story condominium complex, with two businesses on the ground floor.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

That may change soon. Last May, the Lunny estate sold the property for \$700,000 to investors Jeremiah Cullinane, Denis Cullinane, and Eileen Long, according to city property records.

The developers have filed plans for four dwelling units and two commercial spaces located on the ground floor at the back of the building, said city planner Dan Sirois.

As envisioned, the building would rise four stories, but the top floor would be set back to reduce its visual bulk from 24th Street. The buildings on either side—Tien Fu Chinese Restaurant and Colorcrane Arts—are two stories tall, although there are several three-story buildings in the block, on the same side of the street.

The maximum height for buildings in the area is 40 feet—which is the approximate elevation of the planned structure.

The new building also would have underground garage space, accessed from 24th Street, for four vehicles. Motorists would drive into the building, and a car elevator would take their vehicles down to their parking spaces.

"I've never seen it before," Sirois said about the design of the car elevator for residential use.

Before they can proceed, the developers will be required to seek additional permits.

"We identified that they need a condi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Rash of Home Burglaries Over The Holidays

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Money—and lots of it—is buying people entry into Noe Valley's pricey real estate market, but it isn't necessarily buying them safety once they move into their new homes. In fact, if the recent holiday season is any indication, residential burglaries appear to be on the upsurge in the neighborhood.

According to statistics from the San Francisco Police Department, Noe Valley had 41 residential burglaries in November through December 2002—almost twice as many as the year before. (The area had 22 burglaries during the same two-month period in 2001.)

While the burglaries were well distributed throughout the neighborhood, the spike primarily occurred north of Cesar Chavez Street, in the part of Noe Valley covered by Mission Station. During the last two months of 2002, there were 33 break-ins, as compared with 15 the prior year.

The rest of Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez to 30th Street—which falls within the Ingleside Police District, recorded eight burglaries in November–December 2002, just one more than the year before.

The most burglaries in any one week (nine) occurred Dec. 15 to 21. Flats, apartments, and single-family homes on 24th, Jersey, Cesar Chavez, Dolores, Elizabeth, Church, Duncan, and Chattanooga streets all were hit by thieves (*see map, page 9*).

The majority of the break-ins took place while residents were at work or away from home in the afternoon or evening. A few occurred while residents were out of town for a day or more. However, one thief took less than a hour to make off with two necklaces, a gold bracelet, a silver pocket watch, and a Canon digital camera from a flat in the 1400 block of Dolores Street. While the resident was out in the early afternoon, a thief entered her home through a 15-by-20-inch dog door.

In another incident, the owner of a home in the 400 block of 28th Street played citizen cop, apprehending a thief attempting to steal his \$3,000 mountain bike from his open garage. During the midmorning incident, the homeowner wrestled the thief to the ground and detained him by sitting on top of him until the real police arrived. During booking at Ingleside Station, a criminal history check revealed that the suspect had been arrested six months earlier for burglary and possession of narcotics.

Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo, whose beat is centered on 24th Street, says the evidence so far points to no particular suspect or group of suspects. The SFPD's Crime Scene Investigations unit has been notified in only a handful of cases, she says, because of the lack of physical evidence (many residents inad-



Many Noe Valleyans descended on Tuggey's Hardware in early January, seeking ant-defense tips from store employees Pete Zuger and Jason Park (right).

Photo by Beverly Thorp

on vacation, ants invaded the kitchen of her second-floor apartment on Hill near Castro. "I've never seen anything like it," she says. "It was like the ant farm moved into my kitchen."

Two boxes of ant traps seemed to vanquish the main army, but several weeks later, McPherson is still finding stragglers. "They're tenacious little monsters," she says.

Noe Valley isn't the only neighborhood crawling with ants. Reports from all over

San Francisco indicate that the pesky creatures are popping up everywhere.

According to Corrie Saux, a biologist and ant expert at San Francisco State University, the ants that are invading Bay Area homes are Argentine ants, sometimes referred to as "sweet-eating" ants because they are attracted to sugar and honey.

"When we receive heavy rain, the ants

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



The news from 25th and Noe streets is written on the sidewalk, echoing a decades-old tradition of protesting the failure of diplomacy and the rise of armed conflict. Quiet Noe Valley is thousands of miles away from the sands of Iraq. But if our troops go there, we will know the destruction of our winter peace.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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LETTERS 37¢

St. Paul Alumnae Alert

Editor:

I am looking for gals who went to St. Paul's High School in the early 1950s. [The high school was located at 317 29th Street near Church, in a massive granite building now occupied by a condominium complex.]

I used to live on Duncan between Church and Sanchez, and would like to hear from my former classmates.

Cecilia E. Schneider
cessf37@open.org

ents, and the incredible sense of community. Even though it's our neighborhood school, we hadn't taken a serious look at it before. Now we're hoping she will go to school at Fairmount.

Thanks for keeping us on top of what's happening in our community—we rush out on the first day of every month to look for the new issue of the *Voice*.

Jan Goben
Via e-mail

Fairmount a Hidden Gem

Editor:

Thank you for your story on Lizbeth Sanchez, the mother at Fairmount School who was deported to Guatemala and brought back with the help of other parents and teachers fighting to reunite her with her family. [Laura McHale Holland wrote about Sanchez's harrowing experience in her "This 'n' That" column in the December 2002/January 2003 *Voice*.]

The story was so moving that it made me check out Fairmount Elementary School for my daughter for kindergarten next year. My husband and I have been very impressed by the teachers, the par-

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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24th Street House To Be Demolished

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tional-use permit to demolish a residential unit on the second floor," Sirois said. An application for that permit so far has not been filed, he said.

"There is still opportunity for discussion about design, evaluation of materials, and that kind of thing," Sirois said. "Nothing is set in stone. We've got a basic concept right now, and we'll be working with the project sponsors to refine it."

Public hearings will be scheduled once all pertinent permits have been requested, Sirois said.

Long, who is also a realty agent with B.J. Droubi Real Estate, said the new owners plan to present their course of action to local residents and civic organizations. But it would be "premature" to do so now, she said.

"It all depends on what [the] Planning [Department] says and what guidelines they give us," said Long. "At that point, we can work with our architect and then

go to neighborhood organizations and say, 'This is what we propose.'"

"We'd definitely be interested in the plans," said Jeannene Przyblyski of the residents' group Friends of Noe Valley. "The 24th Street corridor is our most important shopping and congregating area. We would certainly hope the project sponsors would contact the neighborhood groups to share their plan."

In the past, local groups have cast a critical eye upon commercial and residential endeavors they consider out of character with other neighborhood buildings.

Long said the investors had not determined what prices they would ask for the condos, what type of businesses would get the commercial space, nor what architectural style the new building would ultimately have. But clues might be gleaned from another project in Noe Valley that she was recently associated with.

The building, located at 1005 Noe Street near 23rd Street, is modern in design and consists of three large condo units. One of those units sold in December for \$1,065,000, and another is listed for sale at \$949,000. ☐

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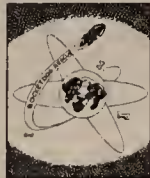
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Steady Demand for a Noe Valley Address

By Corrie M. Anders

No matter how far the economy slid in 2002, the charm and panache of Noe Valley continued to trump the sting of high home prices in the neighborhood.

Noe Valley gained a total of 42 new homeowners during November and December. (During the same two-month period in 2001, there were 41 home buyers.) And how much were those buyers willing to pay for location, location, location?

A four-bedroom, four-bath home in the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street sold for \$1.5 million, while a new condominium in the 1000 block of Noe Street, with three bedrooms and 3½ baths, set the buyers back \$1,065,000.

The average sales price for the 29 single-family homes that sold in the last two months of the year was \$822,173.

But the brisk exchange of homes didn't just occur in November and December. "For Sale" signs were going up quickly and coming down quickly all year long.

According to Randall Kostick of Zephyr

Real Estate, who supplies the *Voice* with monthly sales data, sales during 2002 were "somewhat of a recovery from the previous year," when the high-tech bust and subsequent lost jobs sapped the wallets and confidence of home buyers.

"Some people who [earlier] lost jobs were employed last year," Kostick says. "Some felt a little more secure about their future. And of course the interest rates were just incredibly low this year," he notes. "Every time we thought it had reached a new low, it got lower."

Speaking of new lows, apartment rentals last year dropped to prices that hadn't been seen since the pre-Internet boom.

"The rental market has been extremely soft," says Kostick. "I've had contact with many landlords who've complained that they've had difficulty in renting their flats, and [some] may be offering rents at two-thirds of what they were a year ago."

Two years ago, when huge crowds lined up in front of vacant apartments with cash deposits, credit reports, and fresh-baked cookies in hand, the average asking price for a three-bedroom rental was \$4,085 a month.

Nowadays, the average asking price for a three-bedroom rental is \$2,906, ac-

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Dec. 02	17	\$453,500	\$1,195,000	\$795,000	36	100%
Nov. 02	12	\$615,000	\$1,500,000	\$860,667	37	101%
Dec. 01	16	\$575,000	\$1,495,000	\$834,781	34	100%
Nov. 01	17	\$524,500	\$1,600,000	\$829,764	30	98%
Condominiums						
Dec. 02	8	\$415,000	\$1,065,000	\$699,125	38	103%
Nov. 02	5	\$357,000	\$925,000	\$581,200	72	99%
Dec. 01	3	\$405,000	\$640,000	\$501,666	48	98%
Nov. 01	5	\$431,000	\$589,000	\$510,600	24	103%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
Dec. 02	4	\$725,000	\$1,205,000	\$936,250	56	101%
Nov. 02	6	\$575,000	\$1,499,000	\$1,015,667	27	99%
Dec. 01	3	\$645,000	\$735,000	\$686,333	76	98%
Nov. 01	4	\$635,000	\$1,199,000	\$803,000	26	100%
5+ unit buildings						
Dec. 02	0	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 02	1	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	16	114%
Dec. 01	0	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 01	0	—	—	—	—	—

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (escrow closings) recorded during month. "Noe Valley" in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NV 2/03

Noe Valley Rents*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (Oct. - Dec. 2002)	Average Rents a Year Ago (Oct. - Dec. 2001)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,126 / mo.	\$ 1,137 / mo.	- .967%
1 bedroom	1,570 / mo.	1,657 / mo.	- 5.3%
2 bedrooms	2,093 / mo.	2,373 / mo.	- 11.8%
3 or more bedrooms	2,906 / mo.	2,931 / mo.	- .853%

*Source: Rent Tech, Inc. (www.renttech.com).

NV 2/03

ording to Rent Tech, a local apartment listing service. That figure for the fourth quarter of 2002 is nearly 30 percent less than for the same period in 2000.

It was a similar story for two-bedroom rentals. The average asking price during last year's fourth quarter was \$2,093—down 25 percent from \$2,790 two years earlier. Rents were down almost 12 percent for studios and 18 percent for one-bedroom units. (For 2000 figures, see the *Voice* archives at www.noevalleyvoice.com.)

The switch to a renters' market has prompted some Noe Valley landlords to offer concessions to fill empty apartments. Not only have they marked down rents,

but some are accepting pets and smaller security deposits. Current renters also have begun to negotiate with their present landlords for lower rents—and landlords are agreeing, rather than lose a tenant and face the prospect of finding a new occupant.

Still, some market forecasters contend that renters may have a relatively short window of opportunity to try to negotiate lower lease payments. The reason? An increase in mortgage interest rates is a distinct possibility this year. ☐

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Residents Rally Against Ants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are driven inside when their nests or colonies flood," Saux says.

Regardless of the cause of their arrival, the ants have sent Noe Valley residents scrambling for ammunition. Recent visits to both Walgreen's and Tuggey's Hardware yielded few options, as stocks of ant traps and ant stakes were completely sold out. "This year seems to be particularly bad due to the heavy rains," says Melissa May, manager of the Walgreen's at 24th and Castro. "We haven't been able to keep up with the demand [for ant control supplies]. If we have it, they buy it."

Aside from traps, stakes, and spray, nearly everyone seems to have tried an old folk remedy. Elizabeth Jonckheer's Salvadoran babysitter told her that lines of baby powder at the ants' point of entry would do the trick. "I used to have lines of baby powder all over the house after the rainy season," she says.

Others swear by "Chinese chalk." While this product is supposedly banned for sale in the U.S., it is easily found in Chinatown emporiums. "You draw a line near the ants, and they just drop dead or run out of the house," says 26th Street res-

A Simple Ant Antidote

According to ant expert Corrie Saux, the only effective way to deal with ant invasions is to discourage them from entering your home in the first place. While exterminators might suggest using pesticides, which will kill the worker ants already in your home, that tactic usually allows the queen and remainder of the colony to persist and reinvade. Besides, insecticides are unhealthy for humans and pets.

Saux suggests you try a non-toxic method such as sprinkling cayenne pepper, to "break" the path of the ants. "Put the pepper anywhere you see the ants entering your home," she says. The pepper sticks to the fine hairs on the ants and is then carried back to the nest. Ants do not like the taste of the pepper and will avoid areas that have it.

"In the end," Saux says, "all you are trying to do is trick the ants into finding somewhere else to forage."

ident Andrew Keeler. "It's a miracle."

Unfortunately, the active ingredient in most insecticide chinks is a chemical called deltamethrin, which the EPA con-

siders one of the most toxic pesticides of its kind.

Those looking for an affordable, non-toxic alternative might turn to their spice rack (see "Ant Antidotes," this page) or use other strategies to outwit their opponent. One creative Noe Valley homeowner simply followed the ant trail to find the point of entry into her home. Once she found it, she sealed up the tiny hole with a bit of Scotch tape.

"After trying other methods," she says, "this was by far the easiest solution." □

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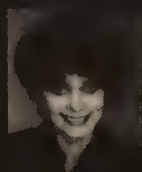
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POLICE BEAT

Noe Valley experienced a sharp rise in residential burglaries during the 2002 holiday season (*see story, starting page 1*). In fact, there were so many burglaries reported in November and December—41 in all—that we didn't have space in this month's Police Beat to describe each incident in detail.

Instead, we asked illustrator Karol Barske to plot the burglaries on a map, to see if any clusters appeared (*see map at right*). As you can see, the break-ins were scattered throughout the neighborhood, although Dolores, Church, and Chattanooga streets appeared particularly hard-hit.

Meanwhile, a number of other crimes also occurred in Noe Valley. The following incidents, summarized by *Voice* reporter Kathy Dalle-Molle, were culled from reports filed at Mission and Ingleside stations from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 2002. They took place in an area bounded by 21st Street, Guerrero, 30th Street, and Grand View. The *Voice* thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo and Ingleside Police Officer Mike Smith for making the police reports available.

Theft from an Unlocked Vehicle: Between 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5; 1700 block of Sanchez Street

A resident of Sanchez Street near 30th parked his Volvo sedan inside his garage the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 4. When he went to get his car the next morning, he discovered that the remote control for the garage door was not working and the door, although closed, was unlocked. He also found the contents of his car strewn about and the lid to his trunk open. A backpack had been emptied into the trunk, but the only item missing from the car was a Nokia cell phone.

The resident told police that because his garage is very small, he leaves the driver's-side door to his Volvo open so he can get inside more easily. He also said his garage door's electronic release handle had been loose for a while and was hanging on the outside of the door.

The resident had cleaned up the interior of his car and trunk before police arrived. Due to lack of evidence, Crime Scene Investigations was not called. The case has been assigned to the San Francisco Police Department's Auto Detail.

Theft from a Locked Vehicle: Between 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, and 8 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8; Diamond and Alvarado streets

On Thursday night, Nov. 7, a woman parked and locked her Acura Integra at the corner of Diamond and Alvarado streets. When she returned to her car the next morning, she noticed that the remote to her car's alarm did not work and that the rear seats were folded down. She also discovered that the car's ignition had been damaged, the right rear tire slashed, and the trunk's lock punched out. In addition, a tennis racquet, racquetball rac-

quet, and a "Club" safety device were missing from the car.

The owner of the car told police that her door locks had not been damaged and that she believed the thief or thieves had entered her car through the trunk (since the passenger side of the car is also accessible from the trunk).

Street Robbery: 11:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8; Castro and 26th streets

A Noe Valley resident was walking south on Castro Street near 26th Street at 11:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, when he noticed three male teenagers standing across the street. When one of the teens asked if he had any money, the resident responded, "No, sorry," and continued walking. The three teens began to follow and taunt him. The resident then heard a clicking noise and turned around and saw one of the teens holding an open switchblade knife, with a three- to four-inch blade.

The resident continued walking south on Castro, but backwards so he could face the three teenagers. He accidentally walked into a parked car and was pinned against the vehicle as the three teens stood in front of him. The teen with the knife continued to hold it toward the resident while another teen told the resident to empty his pockets. The resident complied, but when the teens determined he had no cash, only a few coins, they yelled an obscenity and then ran north on Castro and east on Clipper. The resident immediately called police from his cell phone.

Police responded to the scene and spotted three teenagers walking in the 300 block of Clipper Street. When an officer pulled over and exited her car, the teens scrambled and ran into one another. The officer then heard a "tink" sound. Several other officers quickly responded to the scene, and the three teens were detained. No knife was found during a pat search of the teens. However, police discovered the knife in a small ditch nearby.

The teenagers, all 14 years of age, were transported to Mission Station. After their families were notified, two of the teens were booked at Youth Guidance Center. The third teen was released.

Store Robbery: 5:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27; 1400 block of Church Street

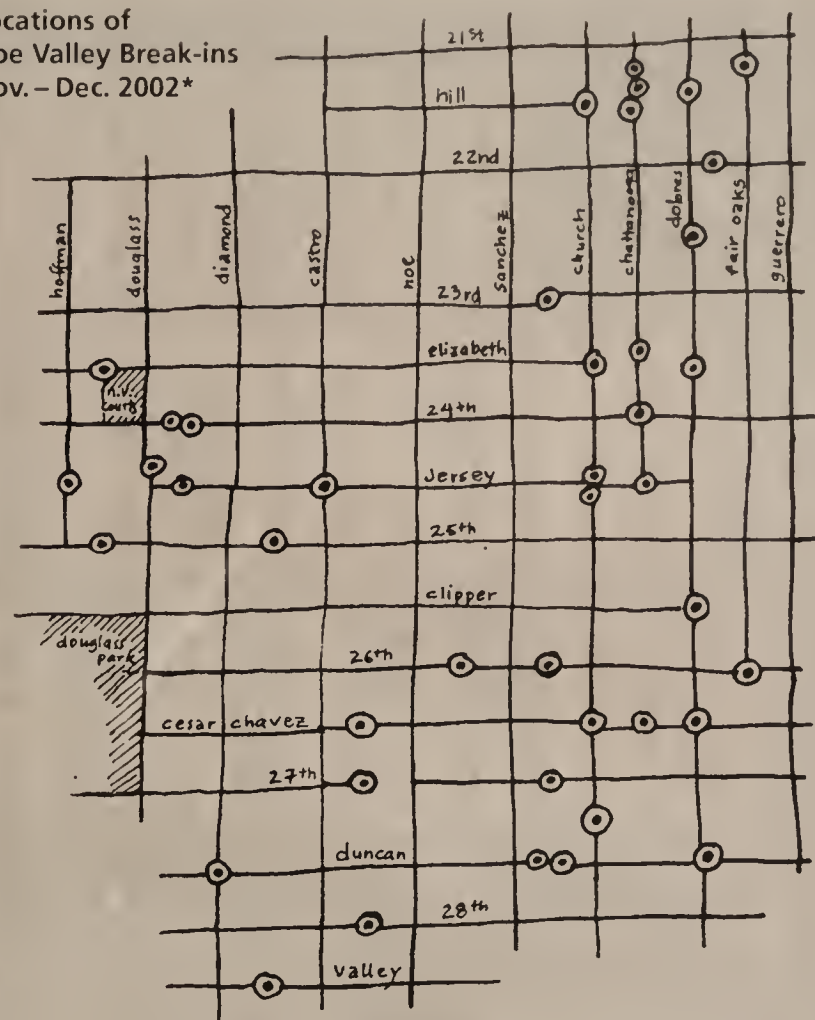
An employee of a gift store in the 1400 block of Church Street near 27th Street was alone in the shop at 5:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27, when a man came in holding what the employee believed to be a gun inside a brown sandwich bag. He pointed the bag at the employee and said, "This is a robbery. Open the drawer and give me the money." The employee gathered a total of \$350 from the cash register and handed it to the man. The man then told her, "My partner is outside. If you call for help in the next five minutes, my partner will come in and hurt you."

The employee told police that she believed the man's threat and waited to call for help. She also told police that the man did not touch anything in the store and that the front door was already open when he walked in.

The employee described the suspect as a white male, 6 feet, 170 pounds, age 29 to 35, with black hair. He was wearing a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Locations of Noe Valley Break-ins Nov. – Dec. 2002*



*Note: Circles do not denote exact addresses, but merely that a break-in took place somewhere on that block.

Forty-one residential burglaries occurred in Noe Valley during the last two months of the year—a jump of 86 percent over the same period in 2001. Police speculate that the city's high unemployment rate is partly to blame.

Illustration by Karol Barske

Burglars Hit 41 Neighborhood Homes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vertently wiped off fingerprints or otherwise disturbed the scene of the crime before calling police). However, all of the recent burglary cases have been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

Lombardo believes the rise in burglaries in Noe Valley is due to the city's deepening economic recession. She also says the perceived affluence of Noe Valley homeowners makes the neighborhood a natural target for thieves.

"It's a well-known fact that there's money in this neighborhood," says Lombardo. "All you have to do is look at the price of real estate and the type of shops around here. Add to that the fact that there are so many people out of work and that the economy has been in a downward spiral since September 11.

"People need money, especially during the holiday season," she continues, "so they're either stealing things to sell, or stealing things and then giving the stolen goods as gifts. It's a mixed-up way of thinking—that you need to give something so bad you steal it—but it happens."

Fine jewelry, computers, Palm Pilots, leather jackets, mountain and racing bikes, digital and video cameras, and of course cash made up the bulk of items taken from Noe Valley homes during the holiday season.

In many of the incidents, the thief entered the home through an open door or unlocked window. "Thieves target homes with easy access," says Lombardo. "I see a lot of cases where the suspect probably jumped a fence to get into a backyard and then got into the house through an open window or unlocked back door. Also, there's a lot of construction going on in the neighborhood, and they'll climb scaffolding to get to an open window."

Rickety back doors, which are common in older Noe Valley homes, also make for easy entry, says Lombardo. "People need to make sure their back door is sturdy. There are a lot of homes in Noe

Valley where the door frames are rotting out. A door like that can easily be kicked down by a thief who wants to enter a home and steal."

To deter thieves, Lombardo encourages residents to leave lights on in their home when they go out in the evening and to install deadbolt locks on any doors leading to the outside. "I know if you're a renter, it's a headache to do it and that the landlord is probably supposed to pay for it," she says, "but if the landlord isn't willing, do it yourself. Or get all the renters in your building to write a letter to the landlord asking him or her to better secure the entryway to the building."

During December, a burglary of a home in the 4100 block of 26th Street was thwarted by a deadbolt. The thief attempted to get into the home by breaking the plexiglass portion of the front door, but a deadbolt lock at the top of the door prevented the thief from getting inside.

"Put as many deadbolt locks on your doors as possible," encourages Lombardo.

She also urges neighbors to get to know one another and unite against crime on their street. "It's important that neighbors watch out for each other and each other's property," she says. "The more pairs of eyes you have watching out for your property the better."

One way for neighbors to connect is by attending meetings of community groups, such as the Friends of Noe Valley, East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, and Upper Noe Neighbors. Neighbors also can attend the monthly meetings held at Mission and Ingleside police stations. The next meeting at Mission Station, located at 630 Valencia Street, is on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. The next meeting at Ingleside Station, located at 1 Sergeant John Young Lane, is on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Lombardo also says that she and other police officers are only a phone call away.

"Don't be afraid to call the SFPD's non-emergency number [415-553-0123] if you think you see something or someone who looks suspicious," she says. "Tell us what you saw and why you think it's suspicious, and an officer will come and check it out. It's important to trust your gut instinct when you think something is not right. Most of the time, your instinct is right." □



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POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

gray fisherman's hat, dark sunglasses, and a white T-shirt. Police broadcast the suspect's description to patrol cars on duty. Officers also searched the area, but did not find the suspect. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Robbery Detail.

Car Theft: Between 2 and 5 a.m., on Thursday, Dec. 5, Sanchez and Clipper streets

At 2 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, a Noe Valley resident parked his red 1992 Honda Civic SI hatchback on the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets. He locked the car, put on the alarm, and went inside his home across the street. A few hours later, his partner looked out the window and noticed the car was gone. In early January, police discovered the car in the Outer Mission near College Avenue. The car had been stripped of its front passenger seat, rear seats, passenger-side door panel, dashboard, speedometer, air conditioner, wheels, radio, and speakers.

Two other cars also were stolen in the neighborhood during November and December. A 1988 four-door beige Honda Accord was taken from Chattanooga and 22nd streets sometime between 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17. A 1990 four-door light blue Toyota Corolla was taken from the corner of Alvarado and Castro streets between 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Shoplifting: 10:25 a.m., 5:55 p.m., and 9:25 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7; 3900 block of 24th Street

On Saturday morning, Dec. 7, a man walked out the front door of a stationery store in the 3900 block of 24th Street, and the shop's alarm sensors sounded. Two employees asked the man to come back into the store. The man complied, and as he walked back inside, the sensors sounded again. The owner of the store believed that some old CDs the man had in his possession were triggering the alarm, so he deactivated the CDs for the man. The man then said he wanted to do more shopping in the store, and the store owner saw the man remove a black Molskine journal from his vest pocket and attempt to place it back on the shelf. The owner detained the man and called police, who transported the shoplifter to Mission Station. During booking, a computer check revealed the man had several outstanding arrest warrants.

At about 6 p.m., a few doors down, two men walked into a grocery store and went to the liquor aisle. One man took four bottles of Moët & Chandon champagne from the shelf while the other took a bottle of Veuve Clicquot champagne and handed it to the first man. The first man took all five bottles to the frozen-food aisle and hid them behind some frozen pizzas. He and his friend then left the store. Five minutes later, they returned with a green backpack, filled it with their five bottles of champagne, and left the store without paying. Two security guards then took the men into custody and called police. During booking at Mission Station, a computer check revealed that one of the men had a prior theft conviction and the other an outstanding warrant.

A similar incident occurred in the same grocery store a few hours later, at about 9:30 p.m. A female teenager took a bottle of Smirnoff vodka off the shelf and

placed it inside her coat. She then left the store without paying. Two security officers detained her and called police, who took the teenager to Mission Station and cited her. The teenager's mother was contacted and later came to the station. The case has been assigned to SFPD's Juvenile Division.

Aggravated Assault: 9:46 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18: 24th and Diamond streets

Two homeless men, one of whom speaks only Spanish, were walking along 24th Street near Diamond at about 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, when three teenagers—two males and a female—approached and demanded, "Give us a dollar." After the homeless man who spoke English refused, the teenagers began pushing him, and one of the teens took out a folding knife with a three- to four-inch blade and stabbed him in the left bicep. The teens then ran eastbound on 24th Street.

The man told his friend in Spanish, "They f----- me up," and the friend saw that the man's arm was bleeding profusely. When police arrived on the scene, the man was lying on 24th Street in a pool of blood. He was admitted and treated at San Francisco General Hospital. Police searched the area but failed to locate the suspects.

The victim told police he believed the teens were members of the "Sureno" gang. Officers notified the SFPD's Gang Task Force of the incident.

The male teenagers were described as Hispanic, ages 17 to 18, 5'5", 150 pounds, with brown eyes and black "buzz-cut" hair. Both were wearing red shirts, blue jeans, and black shoes. The female teenager was described as Hispanic, 17 to 18, 5'5", 130 pounds with brown eyes and black braided shoulder-length hair. She was wearing a blue shirt, white jeans, and black shoes.

Store Burglary: Between 10:20 and 11:15 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20; 3900 block of 24th Street

At 10:20 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, an employee of a gift store in the 3900 block of 24th Street left the shop for home. When he returned an hour later, he discovered that the top lock of the shop's rear door had been popped out and the door damaged. However, the door was still secure and nothing had been taken from inside the store.

Police believe the would-be intruder had chiseled the door in an attempt to break into the shop. However, due to lack of physical evidence, Crime Scene Investigations was not called. ☐

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next meeting at Mission Station will be Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., at 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sergeant John Young Lane, near the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Meanwhile, those who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street can report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing Capt. Greg Corrales at gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the non-traceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can reach Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Capt. Kevin Dillon at kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. (Cell phone users, dial 553-8090.)

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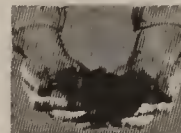
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CarShare Gets a Spot at Walgreen's

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

After almost a year of searching, City CarShare has finally found a place to hang its keys in Noe Valley. At press time, the popular nonprofit service, whose members can rent cars by the hour or day, was slated on Jan. 31 to park one of its signature green Volkswagen Beetles in the Walgreen's lot on the corner of Castro and Jersey streets.

"We are so pleased to finally be in the neighborhood," says City CarShare manager Annie Bourdon. City CarShare will install special signage designating the space a City CarShare spot. The space will be located next to the parking attendant's shed in the Walgreen's lot.

The idea to lobby for a space at Walgreen's came during a brainstorming session between Bourdon and the Friends of Noe Valley last July. After Bourdon told the group how much trouble she had been having finding a place for the bugs in Noe Valley, the Friends decided to write letters to three potential saviors: Walgreen's, Bell Market, and the Noe Valley Ministry, which is building a lot at the former Dan's Auto Service on 24th Street near Vicksburg. (An earlier attempt by CarShare to park two cars in the 15-space public parking lot on 24th Street near Castro—between Radio Shack and Le Zinc Café—had met stiff opposition from Noe Valley merchants.) When Walgreen's manager, Melissa May, responded with enthusiasm, Bourdon and Friends President Jeannene Przyblyski followed up in person. May then contacted Walgreen's headquarters in Deerfield, Ill.

"This is the first time that City CarShare has partnered with a major retail chain," Bourdon says. "We're really ap-

preciative of the help we received from Melissa May and Jeannene Przyblyski. If we're successful with Walgreen's in Noe Valley, I hope it will pave the way for us to work with other Walgreen stores in the city, as well as other chains like Bell Market, Safeway, and Whole Foods."

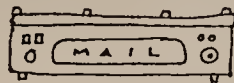
Friends of Noe Valley is riding high, too. "We're thrilled," says Przyblyski. "We're just hoping that the other privately owned lots in the neighborhood, like Bell and the Noe Valley Ministry, will follow suit. The more spaces available in the neighborhood for CarShare, the more transit options we'll have and the more of an opportunity to reduce cars."

Bourdon agrees. "Walgreen's has been incredibly generous in giving us this space," she says, "but there's a big demand for CarShare in Noe Valley, so we know we need more spaces here."

In the meantime, in addition to the new Walgreen's location, CarShare members can use three other car pickup spots fairly close to Noe Valley: the Glen Park BART lot, the public lot at 18th and Collingwood in the Castro, and the New Mission Garage on 22nd near Valencia Street.

Since its founding in San Francisco in March 2001, City CarShare has gone from 12 cars and 40 customers to 85 cars and more than 2,000 customers. To sign up, members must pay a \$300 refundable deposit, a \$30 application fee, and \$10 per month dues. Members also pay \$3.50 an hour (up to \$35 a day), plus 37 cents per mile, which includes gas and insurance.

For more information or to suggest a site for cars in Noe Valley, contact Annie Bourdon at annie@citycarshare.org or by phone at 415-995-8589. You can also log on to City CarShare's web site at www.citycarshare.org. □



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Michael J. McFadden Dies**Goodbye to the Good Doctor of 24th Street***By Laura McHale Holland*

Noe Valley lost one of its finest on Dec. 9, 2002, when Dr. Michael J. McFadden passed away. He spent 44 of his 77 years contributing to this neighborhood through his profession, his parish, and his family.

"This neighborhood was the first place he came to when he came from Scotland via New York," says his wife Mary McFadden, a third-generation San Franciscan who grew up on Elizabeth Street.

"It seems most people find the first place they settle is the one they like best, and he preferred this neighborhood to any in the city. He was always here. He liked to be involved in what was going on, and he was a member of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association."

McFadden was born in Donegal, Ireland, in 1925, but his family moved to Scotland when he was small. Shortly thereafter, his father died, and his mother raised Michael and his five siblings on her own.

Though he grew up in an impoverished section of town where discrimination against Irish Catholics was rampant, McFadden excelled in school and ultimately graduated from University of Glasgow's medical school.

While touring Ireland in 1955, he met his future wife, Mary McKenna, who was on holiday in Europe. The two married at St. Philip's Church in San Francisco in 1957, and then spent a year in New York City so McFadden could complete his residency at Metropolitan Hospital.

Once ensconced in a home on 24th Street, the family grew to an even dozen,



Newlyweds Michael and Mary McFadden, shown leaving their wedding reception at Westlake Auditorium, Oct. 5, 1957.

Photo courtesy of Mary McFadden

and McFadden's medical practice flourished from his office on the ground floor.

For many years, Dr. McFadden held drop-in office hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. And scores of neighborhood residents availed themselves of his medical services. He once saved the life of a local bar patron who had been hit by a speeding car on 24th Street. "There was a thud. He hopped out of bed, ran outside, and rushed to help

him," his wife recalls.

To be a devoted husband and father and a caring doctor would be enough achievement for one man's lifetime, but McFadden didn't stop there. He also attended Lincoln Law School at night, and passed the California state bar exam in 1976. He founded the San Francisco Glens Soccer Club in 1960, and was a founding member of the United Irish Cultural Center. He marched in the St.

Patrick's Day Parade each year, rain or shine. He also was appointed to the San Francisco Parking Commission in 1972.

Unlike most of his colleagues, McFadden made house calls to his patients' homes and convalescent hospitals until his retirement in 1997. His fee for a visit was a modest \$10 for those who could pay, and for those who were unemployed, his fee was zero.

"People who knew him remember him with a lot of love and good feeling," says Mary McFadden. "He was kind to a lot of people. He was always sympathetic to their problems. He listened to them to find out what was bothering them."

Hundreds filed into St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street to attend his wake the evening of Dec. 12. And the church was again standing-room-only at the funeral mass the next day.

In addition to his wife Mary, Dr. Michael J. McFadden is survived by nine of his 10 children: Margaret Hogue, James McFadden, Joseph McFadden, Kathleen McFadden, Leo McFadden, Mary McFadden, Monica McFadden, and Anne Mitchell, all of San Francisco; and Patricia Chamberlin of Oakland. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, and by his sister Rose Carroll of Glasgow. The McFaddens' son Michael McFadden Jr. died in 1987.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to St. Philip's School, 665 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; St. Ignatius College Preparatory, 2001 37th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116; the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, 5340 Geary Blvd., Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94121; or to a charity of your choice. ☐





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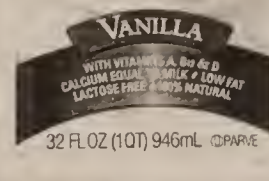
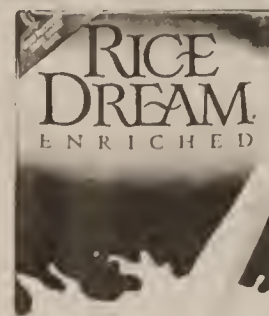
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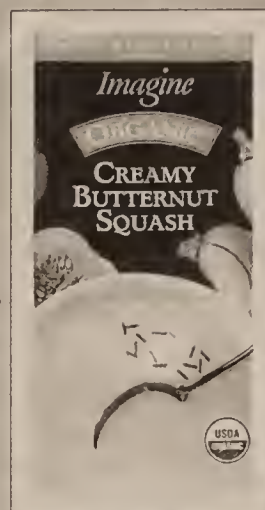
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This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

Michael Stortz and Valerie Pierce received an early valentine last year on Feb. 6, 2002. Their second son, **William (Billy) Walter Pierce**, was born at California Pacific Medical Center at 3:37 p.m. He was six weeks early, and weighed only 5 lbs., 15 oz. But he's a heavyweight compared to his brother **Michael (Buddy) James Pierce**, who arrived 12 weeks early and weighed only 2 lbs., 4 oz., when he was born in March of 1999.

"Since I had complications with Buddy, the doctor anticipated the same with Billy, so I was in bed for four months before Billy was born," Pierce recalls. "Michael was heroic in taking care of me. I could only get up to use the bathroom, couldn't even get myself a drink. So Michael was taking care of me, taking care of a 2-year-old, taking care of the house, and working full-time."

In response to this praise, Stortz deadpans, "It's hard being a single parent."

Billy was in the hospital for 10 days after his birth as a precaution, but he came home with a clean bill of health. In contrast, Buddy was in the newborn intensive-care unit for 3½ months. "It wasn't anything spectacular. He didn't have a hole in his heart like some kids do. Buddy was just very weak and very sick, and had a lot of growing to do," says Pierce.

When asked how Billy differs from Buddy now, Stortz quips, "He's younger." Pierce says they have much in common. "They've both been extremely good-natured, easy babies. They're fun to do things with, flexible, easy to travel with. In his short life, Billy has already been to Seattle, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Arizona, and twice to Virginia, where my parents live. Billy's just more accelerated, doing things that Buddy did, but faster. But Billy hasn't developed his own independent interests yet. He just likes to do what Buddy does."

Buddy's response to his brother's emulation has been lukewarm. "Until very recently, Buddy has been as near as you can be to indifferent to Billy without actually being hostile," says Pierce. "But just yesterday Billy was trying to pick himself up and he fell down. Buddy got out a toy to share with him to help him feel better. It was a really nice big brother thing to do, so I think as they get older, Buddy will enjoy his brother more."

Perhaps Buddy is just taking after his parents. Thinking they'd be a good match, mutual friends introduced the two attorneys when Pierce moved to the city in 1989. "We took an instant dislike to each other, or at least indifference, but three years later we started dating," laughs Pierce. They were married in 1994, and moved to their Sanchez Street home in 1997.

When asked how they decided to give the boys their mother's last name, Stortz got in the last word, saying, "Although we are both attorneys, you can tell who the better negotiator is."

The Pierce/Stortz story is right up local impresario **Jill Bourque's** line. Just in time for Valentine's Day, her improvisational show *How We First Met* has returned to San Francisco for a limited engagement at Actors Theater in Union Square. Undaunted by ominous world events or the sluggish Bay Area economy, Bourque has managed to inspire a troupe of actors with her vision, take her show on the road to New York, Toronto, Florida, and Australia, move into a cozy

home at 22nd and Church streets, give birth to a son, **Dallas** (in August), and still maintain a healthy relationship with her husband **Layne**.

In *How We First Met*, couples from the audience are interviewed live on stage about their true-life love stories, and a troupe of actors recreates their love connection with improvised sketches and songs. The show debuted in San Francisco on Valentine's Day 2001.

"I'm a hopeless romantic, and it's fascinating to me how people find each other in this big wide world. I love romantic comedies, and I wanted to do something in that genre," says Bourque. "The show was only going to be a one-night event, but the response was overwhelming. Since then, it's grown and has been played all over the world. If you're in a relationship, the show will bring you back to what it was like when you were falling in love. If you're single, it's a fun and interesting way to learn about what has worked for others."

"Each show reveals a new take on what love is all about," she continues. "In a way, *How We First Met* is very primitive, like gathering around the fire to tell and act out our personal stories."

The show welcomes couples of all stripes: young, old, liberal, conservative, gay, straight, and all shades in between. It runs through Feb. 22.

For more information, call 845-4314 or visit www.howwefirstmet.com.

Another thespian with a show that's bound to pack a punch is renowned lesbian-feminist playwright, teacher, stand-up comedian, actor, and director **Terry Baum**. Baum founded Lilith, a pioneering women's theater collective in 1974, and directed or co-wrote every production for the group's first five years. Since then she has produced a critically acclaimed body of work that has taken her touring around the globe. She's been compared to Lily Tomlin, Eve Arden, Woody Allen, and even Godzilla.

Except for a brief stint in New York, Baum has lived on Douglass Street since 1978. Her one-woman show, *Waiting for the Podiatrist*, opens on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Venue 9. "I was in New York from 1996 to 1999, and I had four productions and three readings while I was there, but I really missed San Francisco. So even though things went well in terms of theater, I came back here. Since then, I've been developing *Waiting for the Podiatrist*. I also did a show at Cafe du Nord called *Operation Infinite News*. It started shortly after September 11, 2001, and was standup comedy and political discussion—an alternative to what is being heard in the media," says Baum.

In her new show, directed by **Bobbi Ausubel**, Baum plays herself and uses puppets to play her "terminally irritating" mother and her deathly ill father. Her accompanist, **Scrumbley Koldewyn**, formerly of the Cockettes (a legendary S.F. theatrical troupe that reigned from 1969 to 1972) plays a fourth puppet character.

"The show was inspired when my father was in a coma in UCLA medical centers and I was involved in a theater festival at Venue 9. I was working on something else, but then this catastrophe happened with my family. I decided to use hand puppets in an effort to find the comedy in



"Buddy" Pierce, 3, and baby brother Billy, who's almost 1, are making life fun on Sanchez Street for parents Valerie Pierce and Michael Stortz. Photo by Silvia Sabas

a very personal and heavy situation. I also wanted to face the ambivalence. One of the things I don't like about most dramatizations about illness is that the person who is ill is a saint, and the people who are taking care of them have no needs themselves. My story has a happy ending, both on stage and in reality. My father's doing fine now. In the show, it seems like it would be better to disconnect the respirator, and then the father wakes up just before this happens. So the daughter has to deal with the fact that she almost killed her father. That's totally true. I try to portray the complexity of that situation, but by using puppets and songs, it is an entertainment." Baum's puppets were designed by **Mari Kaestle**, a Jim Henson associate. Koldewyn scored the music, and **David Hyman** wrote lyrics for the show's eight songs.

While we're dwelling on theater, **Betsy Bannerman** reports that the Christmas pageant she wrote and staged at the Noe Valley Ministry in December was a big hit. An updated nativity story that takes place in such local spots as a Muni barn and a BART train, the pageant drew about 40 people on one of the stormiest nights of the year.

The event did have its share of mishaps, however. "The couple who were playing Mary and Joseph [**Kristin** and **Stuart Horne**] did not 'make it to the inn on time'—they had their baby **Gavin** five weeks early, less than one week before the pageant!" says Bannerman. "Luckily, **Terry Tallent**, the church's seminary intern, and parishioner **Bill Jackson** agreed to take over. Bill even said we could use his 10-month-old daughter **Lena** as the 'infant' Jesus."

Then, during the actual performance, "a carol was inadvertently omitted, and one of the 'lambs' hit his chin on the manger, and his cries got the 'baby Jesus' going, too," she laughs. Will Bannerman do it again next year? "Yes, if I'm asked!"

Here's another update. **Michael Siani Rose** (mentioned in this column in November) ran the 26.2-mile Honolulu Marathon in December and raised \$3,600 for the San Francisco AIDS project. "It was a beautiful course. We ran around Waikiki, around Diamond Head, and then

down the coast where it was raining one of those little tropical showers. Then we looped back around," he reports. "What was interesting was that there were people riding in wheelchairs, and the fastest people in those chairs finished in an hour and a half. The fastest runners finished in 2 hours, 15 minutes. That's because wheelchairs can go downhill at about 40 miles per hour. I took 4 hours, 34 minutes, finishing in the top 20 percent," he says.

If your bottom line precludes a trip to Hawaii, **Don Surath's** new book, *Conquering Cold-Calling Fear: Before and After the Sale*, might be of help. Published in January by Cypress House, the book is chock full of practical advice culled from Surath's many years as a sales manager and trainer, largely in the radio and television spheres. The principles are applicable to just about any sales or promotional endeavor, including job hunting.

"The book teaches you how to reach people who don't really want to talk to you and get in to see the decision-makers at places you want to work," says Surath. "Just e-mailing a resume is like throwing a needle into a haystack. The way people get jobs now is by making personal contact with the ultimate decision-maker and establishing a relationship with that person. Then you have a leg up on every other person who is applying."

Surath recalls down to the day and hour when he began writing his book. "I'd been doing sales seminars for several years. In order to make it in that business, it's really important to have a book, but I'd never had the time to write one. On September 22, 2000, I was downsized from PAX-TV when they were taken over by NBC/Granite TV. Fortunately, I was blessed with a sizable buyout package, and that allowed me to write the book. As a matter of fact, I'd always said I'd write the book as soon as someone paid me not to work, and it happened. At about 3 p.m., I got my check. I came home, and at 4 p.m. started working on the manuscript."

The book was written at Surath's Noe Street home, where he lived with his wife **Susana Sanchez** and daughter **Marlo Surath** until recently. "We moved to the Richmond District because we took in my mother and my mother-in law, and our house wasn't big enough. My mother-in-law got Alzheimer's, and she couldn't stay at her home anymore, and we couldn't put her in a home yet. As much as we hated to do it, we had to sell the house."

Surath used to take his three dogs—Ellie Mae, a red cairn terrier, Lara, a lab mix, and Iggy, an American Eskimo—to the dog run at Upper Noe Recreation Center. He misses the friends he made there. But with a new full-time job at KTVU-TV, plus classes to teach at the Learning Annex and San Francisco State, and upcoming appearances at Barnes & Noble and other local bookstores, he doesn't have much free time to come back to visit.

For information about his readings, e-mail yfds@pachell.net. Surath's class at San Francisco State, which is part of the Career Skills Seminars Program, will be held on Feb. 19 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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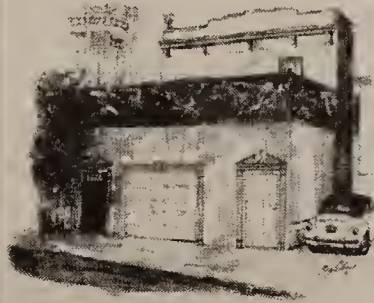
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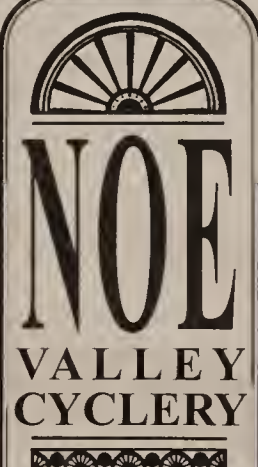
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Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon: Partners in Love And Activism

Film Celebrates Noe Valley Couple's Pioneering Work In Lesbian Rights

By Erin O'Briant

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon may be just as captivated as the rest of the audience on Feb. 13. That's the evening that *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, a documentary film about the lives of the two legendary lesbian rights activists, makes its world premiere at the Castro Theater.

The longtime partners and Noe Valley homeowners say they were glad to cooperate fully with filmmaker Joan E. Biren, who began making the documentary in 1999. Biren spent many hours quizzing the couple from behind her camera.

"We just sat around and talked, and she filmed. We've been doing this for four years, and I don't think we have a clue what we've said," laughs Lyon. A month before its debut, the film was still being completed, so Lyon and Martin weren't sure whether they'd see it before the public screening and celebration this month.

The two chat and laugh easily together—and finish one another's sentences—as one would expect of people who have been partners in love and activism for five decades. Indeed, the world debut of the film is the eve of the couple's 50th anniversary, on Valentine's Day. They're excited about the film screening and, it seems, a touch surprised to find their lives the subject of so much interest.

"We just did things, and I guess we just kept going," says Lyon of their half-century of activism. Martin agrees. "One thing just led to another."

The two were early members of the Daughters of Bilitis and were leaders in the modern lesbian rights movement, dating back to the 1950s. In more recent years, they've actively promoted rights for elders, both within and outside the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. In today's right-leaning politi-



Phyllis Lyon (left) and Del Martin will attend the premiere of *No Secret Anymore*, a film about their lifelong dedication to civil rights.

Photo courtesy of Sweetheart Studios, S.F.

cal climate, Lyon notes, they're both increasingly concerned about everyone's civil rights. "And we thought the '50s were scary," Martin adds.

In many ways, they were. "We've come a long way from our goal in the 1950s, part of which was to get laws against sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex wiped off the books. The other part was to be considered part of society," says Lyon, now 78. "We wanted our full rights and responsibilities," says Martin, 81. And they hoped to combat homophobia—a term that didn't even exist at that time.

Much has changed over the years, and Lyon and Martin were driving forces behind many of the hard-fought battles for LGBT rights, which, at the time they began their activism, were simply called gay rights. "It was a long time before the word 'lesbian' was even included in the name of Pride parades and that kind of thing," Martin notes.

Documentary Premieres at the Castro on Feb. 13

No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, a documentary about a Noe Valley couple in the vanguard of the lesbian rights movement, will premiere the day before Valentine's Day, on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Castro Theater, 429 Castro Street. Doors open at 7 p.m.; film starts at 8 p.m. From 9 to 9:30 p.m., there will be a question-and-answer period attended by film subjects Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, as well as by producer Dee Mosbacher and filmmaker Joan E. Biren. Tickets for the premiere are \$15. Call 355-9988 for more information.

unit buildings. "It's amazing how many people live in that little area now," Lyon observes.

They remember a very different 24th Street, too. "A lot of the buildings were there," Lyon says, "but not all the restaurants and shops." They recall a movie theater, and Tuggey's Hardware was one of the major attractions on 24th Street during their first years in the neighborhood.

One thing that hasn't changed, though, is their steadfast partnership. Lots of people, straight and gay, would love to know how to keep a happy relationship going for 50 years.

But Lyon and Martin say there is no secret formula. "If we had a secret, we would have written a book and made a million dollars," says Lyon. "We love each other, we have similar interests. Our lives were very similar even before we met."

"And," jokes Martin, "we're both losing our memories at the same time."

It's a good thing they've got it all on film. ☐

Noe Valley isn't the same place it was 50 years ago, either. The couple have lived in the neighborhood since the days when it was called the Outer Mission. When they moved here in 1955, a car passing by their house on Duncan Street was an event.

"We would run to the window if we heard a car," remembers Lyon. Martin adds, "It was almost always a friend of ours."

They hardly had any neighbors. Now, of course, their hilly street is full of multi-



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SHORT TAKES

Old-Time Bluegrass Festival

The Noe Valley Music Series will host part of the fourth annual San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Festival, coming to San Francisco, Berkeley, and Mill Valley the week of Feb. 7-16.

Talent showcased in our neighborhood will run the gamut from the traditional True Blue to the edgy Crooked Jades, and from the up-and-coming Hot Buttered Rum String Band to the iconic Darol Anger and Laurie Lewis.

The first of four local concerts will be held Friday, Feb. 7, and will feature the bands Keystone Station, True Blue, and Dark Hollow. Then Jackstraw, Strung Over, and the Hot Buttered Rum String Band will perform Saturday, Feb. 8. Tickets for both of those shows are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door.

The groups Tom, Brad & Alice and the Crooked Jades will wow the crowd on Friday, Feb. 14. Tickets for that show are \$15/\$17. Darol Anger's American Fiddle Ensemble, along with Laurie Lewis and Her Bluegrass Pals, will perform until 11 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15. Those tickets are \$25, both in advance and at the door.

This roots festival is very popular, so advance ticket purchase is advised. Tickets are available without service charge at Streetlight Records, 3979 24th Street, or by mail to S.F. Live Arts, P.O. Box 862, Fairfax, CA 94978. Tickets with a service charge are available at all BASS outlets, as well as by phone at 510-762-BASS.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., earlier than most Noe Valley Music Series shows, and take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. For more information about the festival, visit www.sfbbluegrass.org.

Homeless in Cardboard

"Encampment," an installation by local artist Dianne Platner, opens at the San Francisco Art Commission's gallery in City Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The installation consists of 75 peaked-roof cottages hewn from cardboard signs, which Platner collected from homeless people throughout the city.

Each only 8 by 14 inches in diameter, the dwellings were inspired by the relief cottages built for people rendered homeless by San Francisco's catastrophic 1906 earthquake and fire. An accompanying video documentary will be on view at the opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Shown on three monitors, the video reveals some of the personal stories behind the signs. "I have a perception that not many people in Noe Valley have been able to converse with a homeless person at DuBoce and Mission or Fell and Van

Ness," says Platner, who resides on 23rd Street. "This exhibit is an opportunity to do that, to start that conversation."

Also in the exhibit are autobiographical paintings by Stan Cohen, travel photographs with accompanying stories by Jeff Davis, and fantasy paintings of a future San Francisco by Richard Delvin.

"The gallery in City Hall is a community art space," Platner notes. "It took me a considerable amount of work to get in, but it's worth every effort. There are a lot of artists in Noe Valley who do incredible work, and it's an opportunity to be seen by a wider audience," she encourages.

The show is on the ground floor of City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place (between Polk and Van Ness streets), through March 23. Admission is free. For more information, call 269-6462 or e-mail dplatner@sbcglobal.net.

For Love of Puzzling

An enigmatic sort of love will be in the air Feb. 1 and 2 at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore on 24th Street. The store is hosting its first Mystery Lovers Weekend, where mystery fans can meet and talk with authors of whodunits from the Bay Area and beyond.

"There will be a forum each day beginning at 2 p.m.," says Diane Kudisch, the store's owner. "The theme is how do you create and develop characters in a mystery novel. Local authors are scheduled for Saturday, and authors are coming from out of town on Sunday."

Saturday's lineup includes Noe Valley author Cara Black, whose fourth book in the popular Aimée Leduc series is coming out in April; Mark Coggins, formerly of Noe Valley, whose contemporary private-eye series is centered in Silicon Valley; Rhys Bowen from Marin County, author of two mystery series, one situated in Wales and the other in early 20th-century New York; Catherine Coulter, suspense thriller and romance writer from Marin; first-time author Twist Phalen, who has written a Pinnacle Peak mystery; and San Franciscan Peter Plate, whose gritty,

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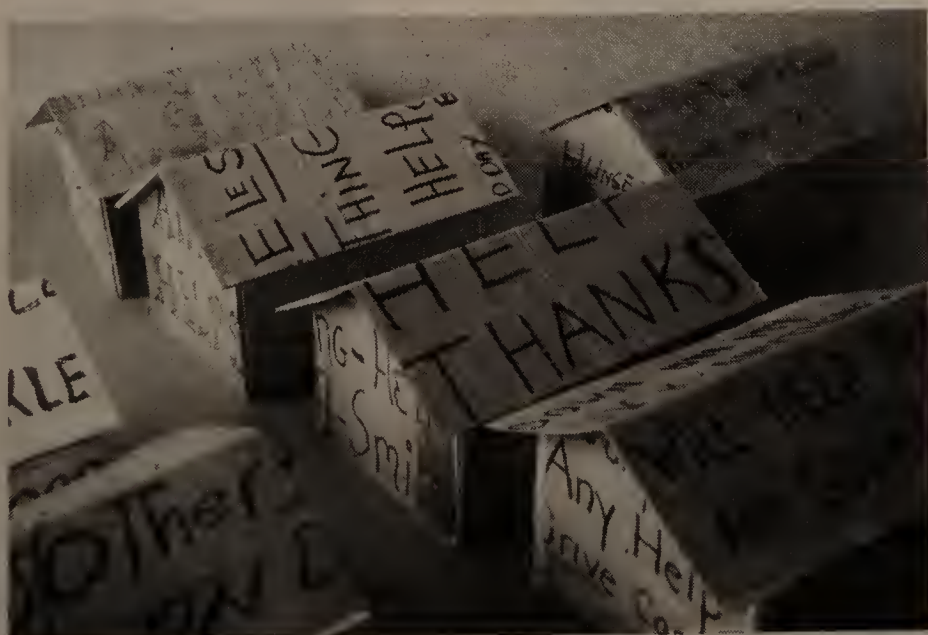
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Dianne Platner's art installation "Encampment," which was created from cardboard signs used by the homeless, will be exhibited at City Hall Feb. 12 through March 23.

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

dark mysteries take place in the Mission.

Out-of-town luminaries featured on Sunday, Feb. 2, will be Deborah Turrell Atkinson, Kathleen Delaney, David J. Sherman, Sue Owens Wright, and Kit Sloane. Each author will speak for 20 to 30 minutes. Questions from the audience will round out each afternoon.

The weekend of intrigue is free. And authors will have books on hand to autograph. The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore is located at 4175 24th Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. For more information, call 282-7444.

The YMCA Comes to Play

From cooking classes to yoga, golf to hip-hop aerobics, the Mission YMCA is bringing a host of classes to the neighborhood this spring. Most classes are for children, but more adult and teen offerings are in the works.

Three of the kids' classes will take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. YMCA chefs will teach a "Cooking for Kids!" class geared for 7 to 10-year-olds on Tuesday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. Kids ages 5 to 11 can learn the rules of golf and how to putt and drive at the "Indoor Golf" class on Thursdays, 3:15 to 4 p.m. (The equipment is provided, and parents and guardians are welcome to participate in the class, too.) On Tuesday mornings, from 8 to 8:45 a.m., children ages 4 to 6 can do deep-breathing and stretching exercises at a yoga class that promises "a fun morning of play."

The Ministry classes are offered in three four-week sessions, ranging in price from \$30 to \$35 per session, or \$90 to \$105 for all three. The first session runs from Feb. 11 to March 6; the second from March 18 to April 10; and the third from April 22 to May 15.

The Mission YMCA is also holding sports instruction for children ages 3 to 5 on Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 3 to 3:45 p.m., at Douglass Playground at Douglass and 26th streets. The lineup includes soccer, basketball, T-ball, and flag football, offered in a series of four-week sessions. The pee-wee soccer session ends on Feb. 13, but there's still time to sign up for the other three, beginning with basketball on Feb. 25. The price is \$30 per session.

The first session of a hip-hop aerobics class open to adults of all physical abilities began at the Noe Valley Ministry on Jan. 16. The class is offered in three five-week sessions on Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$35 per session. The second session runs Feb. 27 to March 27; the third from April 24 to May 22.

In addition to class fees, the YMCA charges a one-time \$35 annual program fee. However, financial aid is available. And coming to Noe Valley soon will be classes in adult Pilates, martial arts, step aerobics, dance, high school sports, and tennis for kids.

To register for any of the current classes, call Jason Dowd at 452-7574 or contact the Mission YMCA at 4080 Mission Street (between Mission and Silver streets); phone 586-6900. For more information, visit the YMCA's web site at www.ymcasf.org/mission.

The Sketch Club Legacy

"Projections," a new show by San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is at Gallery Sanchez through Feb. 28. Juried by Electra Long, an artist who teaches painting at City College's Fort Mason campus, the show represents the work of 18 Bay Area women.

The pieces included are in a variety of media, including acrylic, watercolor, watercolor and litho pencil, oil, color and digital photography, monotype, acrylic collage, and mixed media. Neighbors chosen for the show are Sanchez Street resident Ellen Chestnut and Laura Hollis, who lives on Liberty Street.

"I'm showing two monotypes. It's a printmaking technique where you draw on an acrylic plate in ink, and then you print it. It's a very painterly technique," explains Chestnut. "I'm excited to be in this show because there are a lot of very fine artists in this organization, so for me it's an honor to be part of this group."

SFWA began in the 1880s and was informally dubbed the Sketch Club. It was an independent group of San Francisco women artists who met to share and critique each other's work. In 1925, they changed their name to the San Francisco Society of Women Artists. They adopted their current name in 1946. The group consists of women artists throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area.

Admission to the show is free, and art work will be for sale. Gallery Sanchez is in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call 826-1895 for more information.

A Not So Odd Monday

Local author Olivia Boler will be featured at the Noe Valley Ministry's Odd Monday Series on Feb. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. She will read from her first novel, *Year of the Smoke Girl*, published in 2000 by Dry Bones Press, as well as from her new novel, *Along the Way*.

Year of the Smoke Girl is a story about a young woman who is at a crossroads in her life, trying to find her true self. She discovers a family secret that helps in her quest. *Along the Way* is a "road-trip" novel about two young people who are connected because they have each experienced the death of a beloved family member.

"Although the subject of *Along the Way* sounds heavy, the book has a lot of humor in it. There's quick dialogue and pacing, and fun supporting characters," says Boler, who lives on Diamond Street. "I would like to read mostly from *Along the Way*, because I haven't done a reading from it before," she adds.

After the reading, Boler will answer questions from the audience. "If people want to ask about how I was able to publish my first novel or about getting published with a small press rather than going the traditional route, I'd be happy to address that," she says. "Also, if they have questions about writing in general, that is something I love to talk about."

Boler is a contributing writer to the *Noe Valley Voice*, as well as an editor of the paper's Last Page, which features fiction and poetry. The Noe Valley Ministry is at 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. For further information, call 821-2090.

This month's Short Takes were written by Laura McHale Holland.



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Yoga and the City

By Irene Moore

It's 6:45 on a Tuesday evening, and I'm watching Larry King, in classic yellow suspenders, lean over his table and shoot questions to a Palestinian representative. The discussion of suicide bombings and tank retaliations is getting to me. With conscious guilt, I start to retreat into my own little world. I wonder if the guy I had a date with last week is really single, if I can lose the proverbial 10 pounds, and, on this Tuesday evening, if I can get into Nathaniel Bliss' 7:45 yoga class. I feel shallow for obsessing about my own "inner peace" when outer peace is so unobtainable. However, the events in the Middle East recede along with the volume on the TV as I plan for a night of yogic bliss with Nathaniel.* I must hurry: Getting into Nathaniel's class is like getting a good parking space for a movie at the Clay on a Friday night.

At 7:00, I dig out a Lean Cuisine from the freezer. While pushing the buttons on the microwave, I visualize walking around the next day, calm and poised. This post-yoga image sets me in motion. I quickly rummage around in my dresser for some casually chic but stretchy clothes. For women, the "look" seems to be a spaghetti-strap tank top with black stretch pants that flare just

above the ankle—a far cry from my mother's yoga of the 1970s, which entailed nothing more than long khaki shorts and T-shirts bought on summer vacations. For men, things are easier, but I have noticed a recent wave of stylish Adidas and Nike shorts, the kind that also do well in inversion poses. Finally, I discover a purple top that is Downward Dog-friendly and a pair of black, boot-cut stretch pants that will stay with me during the Shoulder Stand.

It's now 7:15, and I'm eating my nuked airplane meal. Suddenly, I realize I haven't called to make a reservation for the 7:45 class. Though making a reservation seems to contradict something in Eastern philosophy, I know I must do this to get into Nathaniel's class.

Nathaniel, a short, slender man with large compassionate eyes and a shaved

Outside, I'm drowning in a sea of North Face jackets, cell phone jingles, and conversations about weekends in Tahoe.

What am I doing here? I ask myself. But then I visualize the next day: I won't spill my coffee, get food stains on my clothes, or run stop signs. I'll be on time to work and will interact smoothly and wittily with others.

head, is a popular teacher. His movements are confident and lithe, like a panther in complete control of his terrain. He's always reminding us to love ourselves, and occasionally he will compliment a yogini's aura if he or she is surrounded by a particular glow. Everyone, male or female, seems to have a crush on Nathaniel.

At 7:20, I call and get a soothing feminine voice...on a machine. Something tells me that this is a bad sign, but I leave a message anyway, asking them to reserve me a space. I then scarf down the rest of my radiated "steak."

At 7:30, I leap out the door to start the blustery eight-block trek to the yoga studio. Within a block of the yoga center, I tense up as I see a line of young, attractive people on the sidewalk. Maybe it's a group congregating outside the bar next door, I tell myself, but I

know better when I see a profusion of black stretch pants and rolled-up purple sticky mats. Picking up my pace, I join the line outside, wondering anxiously if I'll get into the class.

At 7:40, the steam-soaked French doors inside the studio swing open. Dozens of sweaty, serene people emerge from a Bikram "yogafitness" class. Meanwhile, it's chaos at the main desk. The wood-paneled reception area, the size of a large bathroom, cannot accommodate the influx of wannabe yoginis. Behind the desk, a curly-haired woman, with peace symbol tattoos and silver bangles from wrist to elbow, calmly checks off names as people enter. Outside, I'm drowning in a sea of North Face jackets, cell phone jingles, and conversations about weekends in Tahoe. *What am I doing here?* I ask myself. But then I visualize the next day: I won't spill my coffee, get food stains on my clothes, or run stop signs. I'll be on time to work and will interact smoothly and wittily with others.

With this image, I scoot through the door. I notice two women in Patagonia vests sitting on a bench, glaring jealously at those walking in with assured spots. Announcing my name like one who has a Saturday-night reservation at Delfina's, I expect to get a nod from the even-keeled receptionist. Instead, she feigns dismay, telling me she hasn't received the message and the class is full, but she could put me on the "wait list." Now it's my turn to sit and stare with envy at those who float in with rolled mats and a space in Nathaniel's class. I wish I had taken an extra dose of Paxil that morning.

That old high-school feeling that I'm not part of the in crowd creeps over me as I plop down on the bench and watch people stroll in, announce their names, whip out their platinum credit cards, and glide into the dark and steamy room of nirvana. I even smile with a slight sense of malicious pleasure at those who, like me a few minutes ago, enter the door expecting to get a space and find there's no room. One short, stocky man in a Yale T-shirt rolls his eyes when he hears the class is full and the wait list long. But because of some tacit rule in yoga, he can't vent his anger. Instead, he forces

an understanding smile, mutters an "OK," and walks out into the cold. The clock ticks past 7:45, as the wallflower group anxiously awaits their fate.

At 7:50, the yogi master himself parts the red curtains and emerges from the dark den of tranquility to announce that he can take three more. All of us bench-sitters look longingly at the receptionist. She announces three names that are not mine, and in a very un-Buddha-like fashion, I start to complain about the now irrelevant message I'd left. Smiling, she tells me my name is fourth, and they cannot honor messages left on the machine. There is some hope, however. If one person with a reserved space doesn't show up, then I'm in. The clock is ticking. Standing with his hand on his hip, Nathaniel seems to be enveloped by an aura of annoyance. With furrowed brow, he tells the receptionist, in a very Western tone, to hurry things up. Then in a huff, he whips back through the curtains.

It's 7:54, and the person hasn't shown up. Yeah! The placid receptionist tells me to go in. I feel blessed. As I part the drapes to enter, some people chanting "Ahmm" in the Lotus position frown at the unwelcome light beaming into the room. Overcoming the smell of foot odor, I squeeze my mat between two long-limbed people. Imagining a graceful and composed me the next day, I salute the sun, bumping against the legs and elbows of my fellow yoginis. ☐

Irene Moore is a San Francisco writer and educator whose articles have appeared in the Children's Advocate and Terrain (both published in Berkeley), and the Tico Times (San Jose, Costa Rica). She wrote this essay while trying not to spill her coffee at Martha & Bros. on Church Street.



Illustration by Kara Berke

*Some names have been changed to protect the innocent!

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your first-person reflections on life in and around the neighborhood. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail your essay to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

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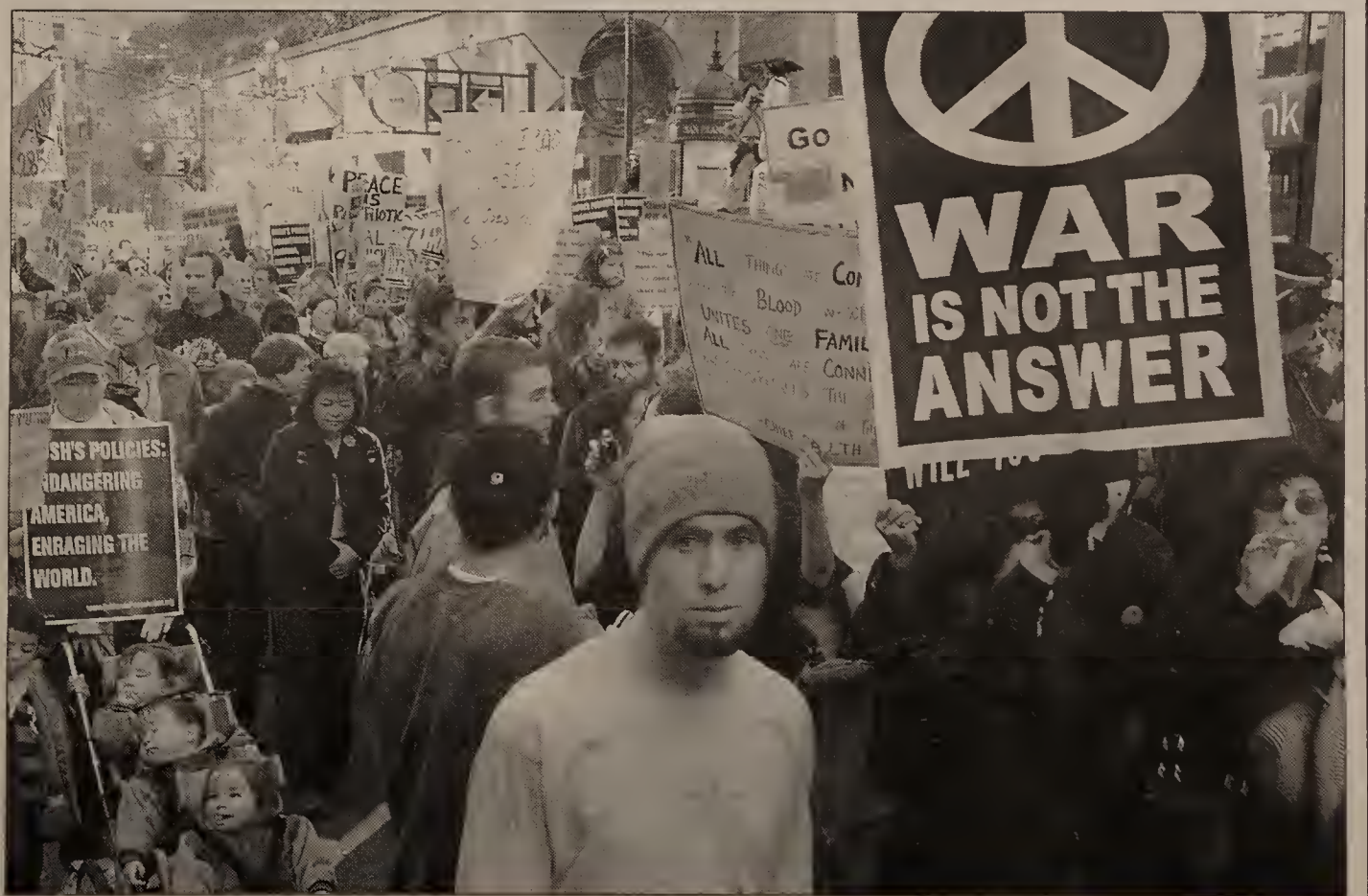


Najib Joe Hakim

Saturday, January 18, 2003

San Francisco's largest peace march since the Vietnam War drew an estimated 150,000 people on a walk from the Embarcadero to Civic Center. Protesters from Noe Valley, including a contingent from James Lick Middle School, crowded the buses, streetcars, and trains to join the throngs on Market Street.

Two *Noe Valley Voice* photographers were there to record the event, and to witness the fact that the Bush administration has yet to make its case with the American people for a declared war on Iraq.



Ken Newman



Najib Joe Hakim



Ken Newman

FEBRUARY

JAN. 30–FEB. 22: Noe Valley resident Jill Bourque's *How We First Met*, an IMPROV COMEDY based on audience love stories, performs Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm, with Valentine's Day shows at 7 and 9:30 pm. Actors Theater, 533 Sutter St. 468-3399.

JAN. 31 & FEB. 1: Percussionist John Santos and Cuban pianist Elio Villafraña give a CONCERT at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

FEB. 3: The ODD MONDAYS series features local author Olivia Boler reading from her novel *Year of the Smoke Girl* and works in progress. No-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; reading at the Noe Valley Ministry, 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 1: Beach Blanket Babylon holds AUDITIONS for male and female singers; bring music for an up-tempo song and a ballad, resume, and photo. Noon. Club Fugazi, 678 Green St. 421-0518.

FEB. 1–28: "Projections," a group exhibit by San Francisco WOMEN ARTISTS, features new work in a variety of media. Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 826-1895.

FEB. 1–28: Abraham Lubelki's "Writing on the Wall: The Text Show," a CONCEPTUAL ART piece, runs concurrently in S.F., New York, and Berlin. Thurs.–Sat. 3–6 pm; reception Feb. 1, 5–8 pm. Melting Point Gallery, 1340 Bryant St. 695-0119.

FEB 1 & 2: A MYSTERY LOVERS WEEKEND features appearances by authors Cara Black, Rhys Bowen, Mark Coggins, Catherine Coulter, Twist Phelan, and Peter Plate on Feb. 1, and

Kathleen Delaney, David J. Sherman, Sue Owens Wright, Deborah Turell Atkinson, and Kit Sloane on Feb. 2. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 2–23: A weekly BOOK GROUP reads and discusses Lloyd Geering's *Christianity Without God*. Sun., 9:30–10:45 am. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 701-7011.

FEB. 2: ROCKET DOG RESCUE holds a monthly dog adoption the first Sunday of each month in front of Zephyr Real Estate, on 24th Street between Noe and Castro. Noon–4 pm. 642-4786.

FEB. 2: ACHAMBER MUSIC concert benefits the Babiche organization, which is promoting a cultural exchange with the Yukon-Koyukuk School District in the Alaskan interior; a slide show and refreshments follow. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 2: Pianist ROBERTO PROSEDA performs a program of Chopin and contemporary music. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 788-7142.

FEB. 2: String Circle gives a CONCERT, "Ecstatic Music," sponsored by Music on the Hill. 7:30 pm. St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Ave. 820-1429.

FEB 3: LAWRENCE BLOCK signs his latest thriller at 4:30 pm, and Linda Fairstein discusses her latest Alex Cooper mystery at 6:30 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 3–28: LIVING TAI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes in meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6–7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed.



Robert Strong, voted "San Francisco's Funniest" by *Laughs Across America*, performs at the Randall Museum Feb. 12 and 13.

and Fri., 10:15 am–noon, at Douglass Park. 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

FEB. 4: A workshop to examine the city's BIKE PLAN UPDATE is sponsored by the S.F. Bicycle Coalition, DPT, and the County Transportation Authority. 6–8 pm. LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. 431-BIKE.

FEB. 4, 11 & 18: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 4–APRIL 1; FEB. 26–APRIL 23: Media Aranda teaches nine-week CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION classes. Tues. or Wed., 7–9:30 pm. Natural Resources, 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

FEB. 5: The Golden Gate Park Safety Committee hosts an EVENING RUN in the park, with 2.5- to 5-mile options, starting at Kezar Stadium. 553-1984.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 20: The Mission Library sponsors a class in CARTOONING for teens. 4–5:30 pm. 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

FEB. 5–26: EVENING MEDITATION classes at the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center offer an introduction to Buddhist meditation. 7:30–9 pm. 455 Valencia St. 525-1575.

FEB. 6–16: The Rapt Performance Group presents "House," a multimedia PERFORMANCE of dance, video, and live music. Thurs.–Sun., 8 pm. SOM-Arts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. 510-981-1005.

FEB. 6–27: A BREATH ALIVE movement class meets Thursdays from 11 am to 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 7–9: The Helobung Cultural Troupe, 10 indigenous T'BOLI artists of the Philippines, performs traditional music and dance. Fri. and Sat. 8 pm; Sun. 3 pm. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. 239-0249.

FEB. 7–15: The San Francisco BLUE-GRASS FESTIVAL features an all-star lineup, including the Crooked Jades, Laurie Lewis, True Blue, and Jackstraw. Fri. and Sat. at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Schedule. 454-5238.

FEB. 8: OPEN HOUSE at the California Institute of Integral Studies offers a chance to meet the faculty and discuss the programs offered. 10 am–3 pm. 1453 Mission St. RSVP to 575-6150.

FEB. 8: A Dreambody WORKSHOP releases the healing energy of your soul's messages. 10 am–4 pm. Wild

Imagination Arts and Healing Studio, 552 Noe St. 820-1424.

FEB 8: A Valentine ADOPTION FAIR sponsored by the SPCA and Animal Care & Control features adoptable animals and info about rescue groups. 11 am–3 pm. 243 Alabama St. and 1200 15th St. 522-3569 or 554-9427.

FEB. 8: The San Francisco Buddhist Center offers Valentine's Day PARTNER YOGA from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. 37 Bartlett St. 289-2019.

FEB. 8: Eddie Muller signs his newest books, *The ART OF NOIR* and *Shadow Boxer*. 3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 8: Tye the MAGIC GUY performs sleight of hand at 3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

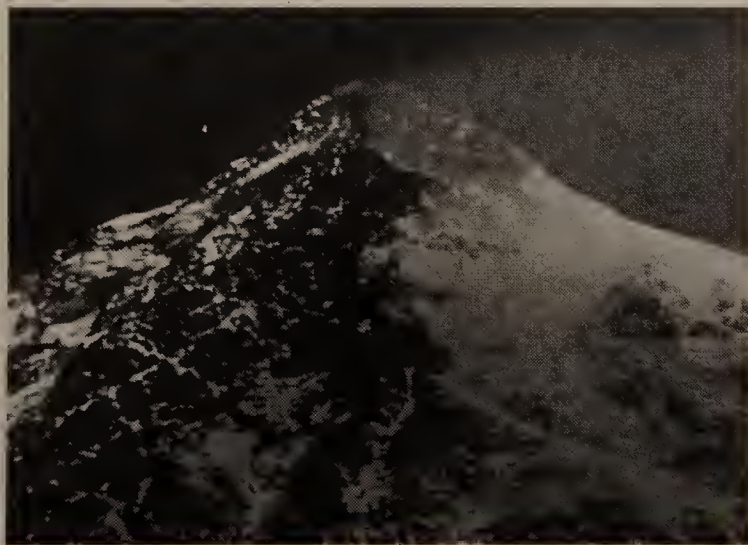
FEB. 8: The fourth annual CRAB FEED, sponsored by Abraham Lincoln High School Alumni Association, features entertainment and school tours. 5 pm. 2162 24th Ave. Reservations 664-4903.

FEB. 8, 15 & MARCH 1: Sisterz of the Underground teaches a three-part workshop, "BREAKDANCE: Bboying/Bgirling Basics," for ages 12 to 18. 2–3:30 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

FEB. 8 & 22: LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents feature songs, stories, and finger plays. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 9: Dr. Micheline Maccario Kissack, senior docent at S.F. MOMA, gives an illustrated lecture, "FEMINISM in Contemporary Art," sponsored by the Older Women's League (OWL). 2–4 pm. UCSF, 3333 California St. 989-4422.

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CALENDAR

FEB. 9: Mark Adams, author of *The Preacher's Son*, discusses the work of Heartsong, an outreach program for GLBT students from religious schools, at the monthly PFLAG meeting. 2–4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

FEB. 9: The Del Sol Quartet performs classical and contemporary works at Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

FEB. 9: The CHAMBER ENSEMBLE Quartet San Francisco performs music "from Bach to Brubeck." 5 pm. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

FEB. 11: The New College of California School of Law offers a workshop, "How to Present a Case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT." 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

FEB. 11–MARCH 4: The Mission YMCA offers YOGA for children ages 4 to 6 from 8 to 8:45 am on Tuesdays, and cooking for 7- to 10-year-olds from 3 to 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

FEB. 12 & 13: Two evenings of COMEDY AND MAGIC feature Jay Alexander, Robert Strong, and Super Gigi as "T-Ruth, the Funky Psychic." 7:30 pm. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

FEB. 13: Tureeda Mikell performs "Remember, Rekindle, Recall: Stories and Songs in Celebration of BLACK HISTORY MONTH." 4 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

FEB. 13: The premiere screening of the DOCUMENTARY FILM *No Secret Any-*

more: The Life and Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon is followed by a Q&A session. 6 pm. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 355-9988, ext. 10.

FEB. 13–16: The dancers of COMPANY CHADDICK perform "Beneath the Surface," featuring three world premieres and live African Kora music. 8 pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

FEB. 13–MARCH 6: The Mission YMCA offers INDOOR GOLF for kids 5 to 11. Thurs., 3:15–4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

FEB. 14: MYSTERY writers Woody Haut and John Shannon discuss and sign their latest. 6:30 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

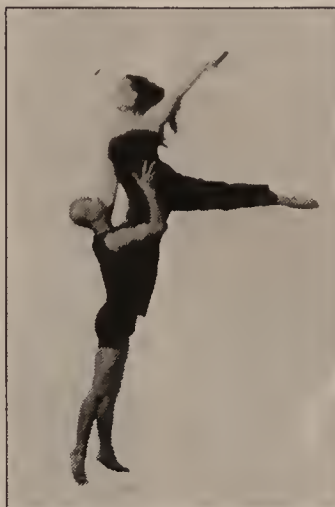
FEB. 16: A mass march and rally to STOP THE WAR in Iraq begins at 11 am in Justin Herman Plaza. For info, call Bay Area United Against War at 864-1278.

FEB. 16: A panel discussion about conserving, feeding, and viewing migratory birds follows the documentary video *Saving the Songbirds*; the Piedmont High School bird callers perform. 2 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

FEB. 19: A child and INFANT CPR class will be led by Media Aranda. 6–9 pm. Natural Resources, 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

FEB. 19: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB meets to elect officers and discuss neighborhood issues. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-6043.

FEB. 20: A YOGIC DIET workshop at the Integral Yoga Institute discusses the principles of the diet and offers favorite



Dancers Cheryl Chaddick and Lorevic Riverera go "Beneath the Surface" at the ODC Theater Feb. 13 to 16. Photo by Marty Sohl

recipes. 6–7:30 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

FEB. 22: The S.F. League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) offers a workshop in building garden paths and beds, "Hard-scaping with Recycled Materials." 10 am–1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. 285-7584.

FEB. 22: The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore hosts a BOOK SIGNING by Deborah Donnelly, Roberta Isleib, and Libby Fischer Hellman. Noon. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

FEB. 22: ODD MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry features a discussion of elementary education with Alvarado School principal David Weiner. No-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; reading at the Ministry, 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

FEB. 22: PHOEBE GLOEKNER introduces her illustrated novel *Diary of a Teenage Girl*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

FEB. 22: VOCOLOT fuses folk, jazz, and cantorial vocals in English, Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish, and Arabic. 8:30 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

FEB. 23: Walter Brents conducts an appreciation and open reading of the works of poet ROBERT DUNCAN. 4:30 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

FEB. 25: FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

FEB. 27: Steve Wong discusses historical sleuthing and archiving data at the monthly meeting of the San Francisco HISTORY ASSOCIATION. 7 pm. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church St. 750-9986.

FEB. 27: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meets at 7:30 pm at the Upper Noe Rec Center. Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

FEB. 27–MARCH 27: The Mission YMCA offers HIP-HOP AEROBICS for adults, Thursdays from 6:15–7:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

FEB. 28: The Bethany Theater Project begins its run of Sondheim's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. 7:30 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. Call 701-7011 for reservation information.

March to the Mailbox and send us the info about your event. The next edition of the *Noe Valley Voice* will be out on the street on or before March 1, 2003. Please make sure we hear about your event by **Feb. 15**. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. You also may send an e-mail to zabarska@aol.com. Thanks.

MARCH 1: GAMES NIGHT at the Noe Valley Ministry features board and parlor games, including classics like Scrabble, charades, and Twister. 7–10 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-7706 or 282-2317.



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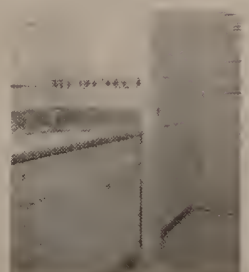
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Voice Readers Report In

From the snow and big rocks of the USA, to the castles and streets of Europe, our readers have been busy racking up the miles and recording the sights. They're back home now and have sent us these photos to add to our travel album. Please join them in our next issue.



Noe Valley neighbor Lee Hopkins and his daughter Carolyn check out the hometown news while visiting Oxford University. Carolyn is an exchange student from U.C. Santa Cruz, attending the British Museum campus of the University of London.



Residents of Noe Valley for 22 years, Roz and Steve Itelson finally remembered to pack a copy of the Voice on their travels. Here they are at the Market Square in Brugges, Belgium.



Karen Schumacher (center) introduces new friends Paula and Pam to her neighborhood paper at the three-day Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival in Manchester, U.K.



Longtime reader and correspondent Ellen Harris went on a road trip through the American Southwest this summer. Above, she shows her neighborhood loyalty at Nevada's Big Rock Candy Mountain.



Faithful Voice readers Josh (left) and Jeremy Moser of Church St. enjoyed their trip to Alaska this July where they caught Halibut and played basketball outdoors at midnight.

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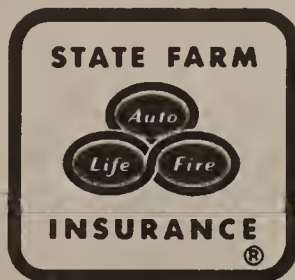
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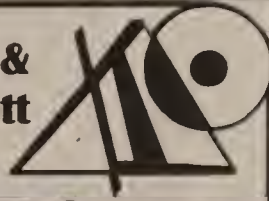
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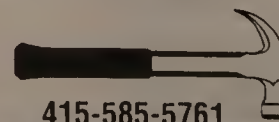
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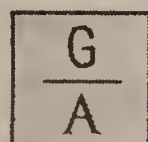
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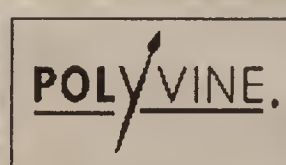
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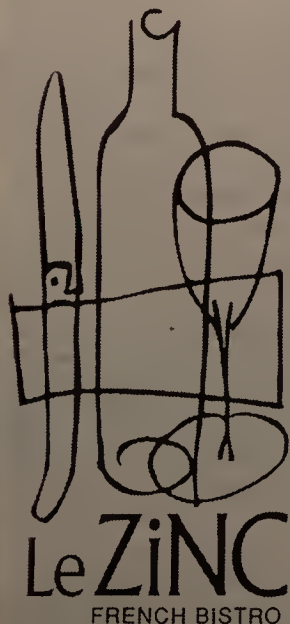
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Some Thoughts Upon Turning 70

In this essay, originally published 13 years ago in our February 1990 issue, Voice columnist Florence Holub examined the choices in life we make and the ones that sneak up on us.

It was Jan. 25 [1990] that I turned the final corner of my 60s, full of health and energy, and entered my 70s, asking myself what I had learned in all those years—what bit of wisdom I had retained that was worth passing on. So here it is: I believe there is a justice in this world, and I'm convinced, mostly because of the unpredictable course my life has taken, that the force dispensing this justice has a wry sense of humor.

Back in the 1930s, we schoolchildren were urged, early on, to perfect our skills and make choices that would prepare us for our eventual life's work. But girls had it harder than boys—jobs for females were limited to salesgirls, nurses, teachers, or housewives.

As I went down this list, I felt only discouragement. Sales meant handling sales slips, and math was not my strong point; nursing was out because the sight of blood made me faint; teaching I rejected when it became clear that I could not even train my cat. As for becoming a housewife, I knew that, with my lack of interest or talent in the kitchen, I would probably (and deservedly) achieve old-maidhood.

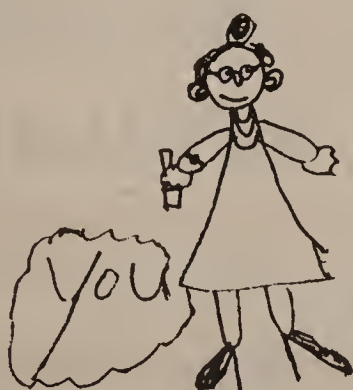
My sensible mother urged me to take classes that would prepare me to earn a living as a stenographer, so I followed her advice and gave it a try. After one year, the teacher called me aside to make a deal. She informed me that if I

would drop the course, she would give me a B-, but that if I persisted in pursuing this career for which I had no aptitude, she would be forced to give me a D. I took the B—with no regret.

Shortly after this, my mother died, and I attempted to take her place as a housekeeper for my father and brothers. Since all I had ever really wanted to be was an artist, I was very fortunate when, during this difficult period, my father agreed to finance my further education in art. I attended the California School of Fine Arts from 1938 to 1942. And there I met the young and attractive Leo Holub, with whom I have shared almost 50 years, most of them in Noe Valley.

In the early '40s, I came across the following ditty in the *Ladies Home Journal* (by a poetess whose name I have forgotten), and I have retrieved these words from memory again and again over the years: *I'm careful of the things I say/I keep them soft and sweet./I never know from day to day/Which ones I'll have to eat!*

ILLUSTRATION BY BETH MICKELSON



The reason these lines have stuck with me is that I've had to eat quite a few of the statements I made emphatically in my youth. As a matter of fact, everything I vowed *not* to do, I eventually did.

Going down the list now, I realize that I ended up working for years as a salesgirl in my father's paint store, a job that improved my math. Then, of course, my marriage to Leo took place despite my failings in the kitchen, and the challenge of raising my active little boys helped me to develop first-aid

skills—as well as a tolerance for the sight of blood.

In the teaching department, I have volunteered as a docent (from the Latin word *docere*, to teach) for more than a decade, giving schoolchildren tours in art and science at the de Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences.

Fifty-six years ago, when I escaped from stenographer's school, I thought I had left the uncooperative keyboard behind forever. But the wheels of justice turn slowly, and here I now sit, struggling over the typewriter, trying to force my wooden fingers to produce a few comprehensible pages for the *Voice*. (Don't get me wrong. I still love doing it, just as I love drawing the illustrations to go with it.)

But art—something our children became aware of at an early age—is the glue that has held the years together.

Our boys were quite young, in fact, when comic books began to replace traditional storybooks, and as parents, we attempted to discourage them by feeding them into the fireplace (the funny books, not the children). But our offspring soon figured out what was happening to their pulp collection, and devised a subtle but effective plan: they presented us with an issue of *Mad* magazine, and asked us to read it before making a judgment.

In that issue, the hero, Alfred E. Newman, became a famous and successful artist by painting on canvas with chicken fat! The story was so outrageously funny that from the sound of our chortling, the boys knew our fiery campaign against comics had come to an end. (To this day, however, we are reminded of the collector's value of those irretrievable issues.)



ILLUSTRATION BY FLORENCE HOLUB

I have often been told that Beth, the 9-year-old daughter of Linda and John Mickelson (my nephew), is much like me, and I can see the similarity. Unlike those children who complain there is "nothing to do," Beth will go to the desk in her room and, with her paper, pencils, and brushes, spend hours creating a world of her own, as I often did.

Two years ago at a family gathering, Beth occupied herself drawing on a paper napkin with a felt pen. When she had finished, she presented me with her work—a picture of me titled "You" (reproduced on this page). It really looks like me, and in my hand she has placed a paintbrush, the classic "attribute" of an artist.

I guess this is evidence—at least in the eyes of another artist—that I achieved my lifelong ambition after all. ☐

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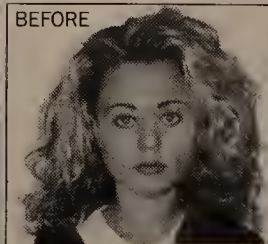
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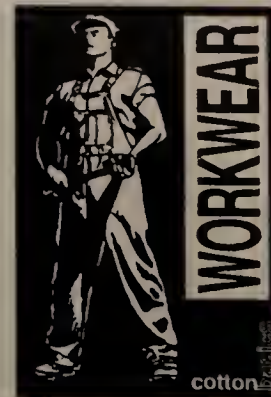
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FAMILY ADVENTURES

ARE WE THERE YET?

CLOSE TO HOME

Be a Tourist! Take a Mural Walk With City Guides

By Janis Cooke Newman

I am standing in front of a painting that features an embracing interracial couple, an Aztec poem, and a man with an exploding Don King hairdo.

"Look, Mom," says my 7-year-old son, Alex. "It's the *Enterprise*."

I follow his gaze to a three-panel mural that depicts the past, the present, and the future, and is filled with dinosaurs, rainbow-painted VW vans, and big-eyed aliens. In the future panel, I spot the TV spaceship, which I take to be proof that, like the past and the present, the future will contain *Star Trek*.

Alex and I, and a half-dozen people hailing from Great Britain, Buffalo, N.Y., and San Mateo, are taking a City Guides walking tour. City Guides, a nonprofit organization sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library, runs close to 30 different free walking tours of San Francisco—from the Victorians of Alamo Square to the vistas of Land's End, the pagodas of Chinatown to the mansions of Pacific Heights.

Alex and I have chosen the Mission Murals Walk because what kid can resist the idea of someone being allowed to paint on a wall?

The murals we're looking at flank the entrance to Flynn Elementary School on Precita near Harrison. Across from the man with the Don King hairdo is a painting called "Spirit of Mankind," which is peopled with the denizens of the Bernal Heights neighborhood, including a smiling drummer in an Oakland Raiders' shirt.

According to our guide, these murals were painted in the 1970s and were the brainchild of Susan Cervantes, Flynn Elementary's former art teacher and the founder of Precita Eyes, an organization that is responsible for more than 200 San Francisco murals.

Our guide leads us across the street to see the paintings on the front of the Precita Community Center—masked revelers from the first Mission District

Carnaval, watched over by a green-winged madonna. Then he takes us a couple of blocks away to see the murals at Garfield Pool—psychedelic fish that look as if they've flipped over from the Beatles' Yellow Submarine.

But the best stop is Balmy Alley off 25th Street near Harrison. Every available inch of this blocklong alley is covered with murals painted on garage doors and the sides of houses.

The Virgin of Guadalupe in a hot-pink gown stares across at the Indian god Manjushri, who is painted with saffron-colored skin and blue hair. Magenta parrots fly around the 14-Mission bus, which has sprouted wings. One mural, painted by HIV-positive children, shows a crying woman, a teddy bear, and a clock.

I like the mural honoring Latin movie stars, which features Dolores Del Rio cradling a pink pig and an actress called Dona Diabla, who has a doorknob incorporated into her headdress. Alex prefers one in which a man appears to be puking clouds.

Our guide stops in front of a painted Virgin on the side of a house. "People used to pee here at night," he tells us, "so the owners had a Virgin painted."

Walking through the alley, we're surrounded by the sherbet colors of the murals—tangerine orange and lemon yellow, lime green and raspberry pink. Salsa music pours from the windows of the street's inhabitants, who are outside



Everything from the Virgin of Guadalupe to the 14-Mission bus has been depicted on the colorful walls featured on tours led by City Guides and Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center.

fixing bicycles and chatting among harlequin serpents and purple coyotes. Inside an open garage, a man paints a blue-robed Virgin, resting his canvas on the hood of an old Nissan.

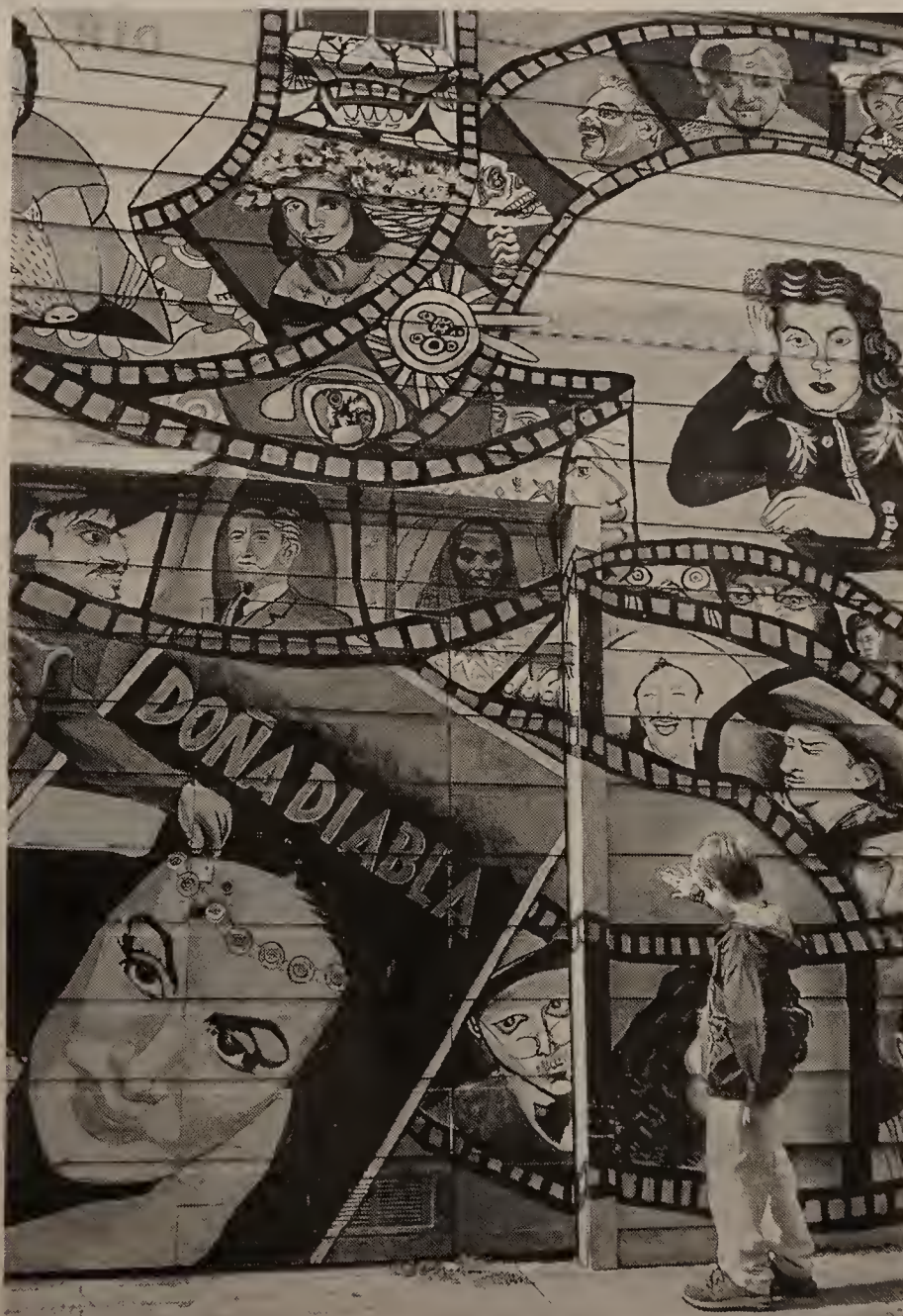
We come out of the alley on a block of 24th Street where the air smells sugary from the open doors of pastry-filled *panderia*. On the side of the meat market La Gallinita, we stop to admire a mural of Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl, the god and goddess of Mexico City. Popocatepetl is wearing a feathered hat and little else. Ixtaccihuatl

is swooning across his shoulder. The whole thing is steamy in a romance-novel kind of way.

At the corner of Florida and 24th, we view the mural-covered walls of St. Peter's Church, which were painted to commemorate 500 years of native resistance. One panel depicts an army of conquistadors and U.S. soldiers pouring from the mouth of hell. Another is filled with skeletons and dead bodies painted in blacks and grays.

Around the corner from the Galeria de la Raza art gallery on 24th Street we find a mural of a sour-looking man with a mustache. "That is the patron saint of drug dealers," our guide informs us. No, really.

The tour ends at the 24th Street Mural Park, where all the murals are kid-related—spotted dogs on swings and buses wearing sneakers. I'm expecting Alex to want to stay and play on the climbing structure, but instead he begs me to take him up the street to the Precita Eyes storefront, where they sell the intensely pigmented paint used for mural painting. I get him to settle for a nice box of sidewalk chalk. □



Many of the city's best murals are concentrated along Balmy Alley, including this painted tribute to Latin film stars.

Photos by Ken Newman

Are We There Yet? is a Noe Valley Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please e-mail Janis Cooke Newman at thereyet@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Noe Valley Location

JAMES LICK Middle School REPORT

Philanthropists, Welcome

If you look for Noe Valley from the window of a plane, the first landmark you will notice is a gleaming white sugar-cube castle rising from the heart of the city. But when you come back down to earth, you can see that our Art Deco treasure needs some T.L.C.

In another century, philanthropist James Lick donated the Conservatory of Flowers to the city of San Francisco. In our era of massive budget cuts, lacking tycoons with Lick's sensibility, we seek many smaller gestures from our community. We invite your suggestions, tax-deductible donations, and participation in the following activities:

Join us in March for a **School Beautification Day** sponsored by Every

One Matters, a nonprofit that brings schools and communities together to promote environmental awareness and volunteerism. Call now to let us know what you'd like to see done, and we'll let you know how you can help us.

Meanwhile, the **James Lick Community Alliance** will continue to meet at 12:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. Seventh-graders Antonio Ayala and Marcelo Periera, who co-chair the meeting, invite all of James Lick's neighbors, not just merchants and business owners, to attend the lunch. Come share your ideas with us.

James Lick Middle School offers many **academic enrichment programs** (which, unfortunately, not all of our students can afford). For example, our annual Mexico trip (Feb. 6-16) will take students to Yucatan with stops in Merida and Cancun. Others will travel to Oregon (May 9-11) to attend three plays at the Ashland Shakespeare Festival and to visit Crater Lake. We also still need instruments for our **free music instruction**: guitars, drum sets, saxophones, flutes, you name it. Your tax-deductible cash or in-kind donations

will make it possible for more students to participate in these cultural activities.

The public is invited to attend our **Friday Night Film Festival**, featuring Spanish-language films from Cine Accion and student films from San Francisco's School of the Arts. A donation of \$10 covers two films and parking. All programs begin at 6:30 p.m.; call for dates and titles.

Watch for another fabulous **Talent Show** in early April, and flea markets and bake sales in the upper schoolyard on Saturdays at James Lick throughout the school year, weather permitting.



Did you hear thunder on Jan. 10? James Lick's annual **Community Drum Circle** attracted 45 drummers to the Joseph Lee Rec Center in the Bayview District for the occasion, which included a potluck dinner. The event was sponsored by **GEAR UP**, a program which involves students and their parents in early preparation for college. Kudos to Pat Askham at the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company for donating the wonderful baked

goods—we think you're great!

Another big thank-you to Susan Lytle from Wavy Footprints for organizing the holiday parking-meter decorations and providing breakfast for our student volunteers.

Our **Science and Math Family Night** on Jan. 28 featured displays of student projects and presentations by San Francisco's Sidewalk Astronomers.

We'll have a **Valentine's Dance** on Friday, Feb. 14.

Make a difference! Please contact Gail Koucereck or Denise Rueda at 415-695-5675 for more information, to confirm dates, or to volunteer. ☐



Ms. Susan Cattoche VOLUNTEER Mrs. Janice Daniels PRINCIPAL

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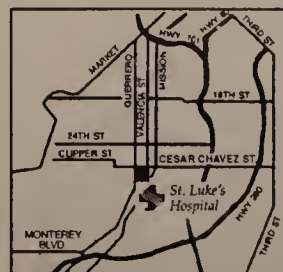
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The Material Is the Message:

Sixth-Graders Make a Quilt Inspired by the Underground Railroad

By Heidi Anderson

Last fall, students in Alexandra Redfield's sixth-grade art class at James Lick Middle School threaded needles, cracked the history books, memorized codes, sharpened their multiplication skills, and learned to sew.

It was all part of a semester-long art project that blended the skills of quilting, with the popular story of how quilts were used before the American Civil War to guide slaves in the southern states to freedom in the north. Hung casually from open windows and over porch railings along a trail known as the Underground Railroad, the quilts were said to have shown secret directions to the escaping slaves.

The 24 students in Redfield's class were asked to make squares for a new quilt, using the same symbols that could have been used in the 1850s. The kids got into the spirit quickly.

"I learned to sew, and all about the freedom train," says student Taylor Mixon. "I found out that quilts were used to communicate to slaves as they made their way north."

Fellow student Maurisha Collins says that for her design, she picked a boxy-looking symbol with a black square in the middle. If a quilt with this symbol was hung out of a window, she says, "it represented that the house was a safe house."

Sewing Can Be Fun

"I thought it would be boring," says Adriana Miranda about the needlework. "But I learned that it's fun."

Adriana chose to make one of her squares a safe house as well. She also discovered that her new skills have a practical application.

"My bear ripped and I put it back together because I knew how!"

Student Breauna Wright was skeptical at first, too. But now she admits, "Sewing is easier than I thought."

Adds Adriana, "We're going to make our own quilts next. I think I'll give mine to my mom!"

On Display at Zeum

The finished quilt is 8 feet long and 6 feet wide, and incorporates 48 of the art students' squares. Redfield's mother, Penelope Wyles, finished the piece by sewing the squares onto dark blue fabric with tiny white dots, to evoke the night sky and the stars slaves used to navigate.

The quilt will be on display, as part of Black History Month, from Feb. 1 through March 2 at the Zeum art center at Yerba Buena Gardens. After that, it will be hung in the art studio at the school, located at 1220 Noe Street near 25th Street.

'Art from the Inside Out'

Redfield is a new art teacher at James Lick this year. She most recently was head of education at the Mexican Museum at Fort Mason. Before that, she produced a teacher's guide for New York



Students from James Lick Middle School pose with their creation, which will be exhibited at Zeum in honor of Black History Month. Standing in back (left to right) are Taylor Mixon, Tony Mai, and Fabian Hernandez. Middle row: Wolfgang Welch, Amiri Lewis, Mario Linares, Maurisha Collins, Adriana Miranda, James Murase, Moncure Lewis, Saul Gomez, and Joao Dulanto. Front row: Jessica Laycock, Breauna Wright, Devonte Pitre, and art teacher Alexandra Redfield.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

City public schools, which provided information on current exhibits and other offerings at New York museums.

The holder of a master's degree in sociocultural studies from the University of New Mexico, Redfield has also taught English and art to third-graders in Costa Rica.

"My whole philosophy of education is to combine bilingual, art history, and educational anthropology."

Currently, she teaches five classes a day, 160 students in all. Her plan for the rest of the year at Lick is to teach "art from the inside out," she says. "By that I mean, start with the art we see right here on the street, then study Bay Area artists, then go further out from there."

Doing the Nines

Redfield says the story of the Underground Railroad seemed a natural subject for James Lick's diverse student body, but she's been amazed at how many kids warmed up to the quilt idea.

"I've seen some kids sewing on the playground, and they even finished their quilts early at home," she says.

The students enjoyed figuring out how to cut the pieces, even when they had to do hard things like multiply in their heads. "In sewing you have to do the math. You have to multiply, add, even subtract, on the fly," Redfield says.

Since the quilt patches were eight inches square, "that meant we needed to cut the fabric at nine inches to allow for folding and sewing under the edges." She adds, smiling mischievously, "We used nines because they're hard."

Once they got through the math part, the kids couldn't wait to show off their colorful work of art.

"Hopefully, they'll be able to see it hanging in the hallway for all the years they attend Lick," Redfield says.

One of the students, Wolfgang Welch, says he learned a lot making the quilt.

"I learned that sewing is a pain. The needle kept poking my skin, and I lost I don't know how many needles."

But he managed to find something to like. He points excitedly to his two squares.

"I took these symbols from a book. This square means 'Cross the river in Mississippi, take a boat.' The last one means 'You are free.'" □

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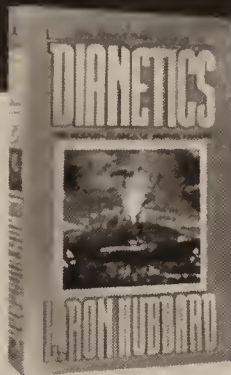
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This month's new books list, selected by Noe Valley branch librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features the latest from Jeffery Eugenides, a retracing of Captain Cook's journeys, and a Scottish terrier who understands French. To find out what books are available, call 695-5095 or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, videos, DVDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has periodicals such as *USA Today* and the *New York Times*, a collection of books in Spanish, and a section devoted to college and career resources. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *Hollywood Tough* by Stephen Cannell, detective Shane Scully sets up a phony Hollywood film company in order to trap a suspicious wise guy.

◆ Both funny and sad, *I Don't Know How She Does It*, by Allison Pearson, portrays a modern-day woman trying to balance her career as a hedge fund manager with motherhood.

◆ In *Middlesex*, author Jeffery Eugenides, who also wrote *The Virgin Suicides*, tells the story of Callie, who is part boy, part girl, due to a rare genetic mutation.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ In his book *Blue Latitudes*, Tony Horwitz, author of *Confederates in the Attic*, retraces English Captain James Cook's three epic journeys during the 18th century, where he met Maori gang members, Aboriginal elders, and the king of Tonga.

◆ *A Castle in the Backyard* is an endearing memoir by Betsy Draine and Michael Hinden, two Americans who settle every summer in Perigord, France.

◆ *Spellbound* by Dominic Alexander offers a tour of myths, magic, and folklore from ancient times to the present.

◆ Based in part on hundreds of personal interviews conducted over 20 years, *Woman's Inhumanity to Woman*, by Phyllis Chesler, author of the classic *Women and Madness*, addresses the sexism and aggression women exhibit toward one another in friendships, in the workplace, and in mother-daughter relationships.

Children's Fiction

◆ *Cars at Play*, by Rick and Ann Walton, illustrated by James Lee Croft, shows what cars might be like if they were to play leap-frog, go ice skating, and engage in other activities normally enjoyed by people.

Ages 2 to 4.

◆ In *Night Train*, Caroline Stutson (author) and Katherine Tillotson (illustrator) take us on a long trip that ends with a happy reunion.

Ages 3 to 5.

◆ If you have a cat, is it a good idea to get a fish for a pet? In Cynthia Rylant's book *Mr. Putter and Tabby Feed the Fish*, the implied answer is "Perhaps not."

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◆ A well-loved West Highland terrier seems at first to be a failure in obedience school, but when someone gives him commands in French, he earns a red ribbon in *McDuff Goes to School*, written by Rosemary Wells, illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Ages 3 to 6.

◆ Tony Johnston gives readers a vivid glimpse of life in East Los Angeles, told in the voice of 11-year-old Arturo, in *Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio*. Ages 9 and up.

◆ In *Alice Alone*, the latest book in Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's "Alice" series, a long-standing romantic relationship ends and some shocking memories are revealed by Alice's friend Elizabeth. Ages 10 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Colossus of Rhodes, and several other structures are given brief but impressive description and illustration in *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*, by Lynn Curlee. Ages 6 and up.

◆ Using historical and personal narratives, drawings, and photographs, Tonya Bolden has created a well-researched, moving compendium, *Tell All the Children Our Story: Memories and Mementos of Being Young and Black in America*. Ages 10 and up.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Tye the Magic Guy

◆ All ages are welcome to come see Tye the Magic Guy perform *comedy* and feats of magic, including expert sleight of hand, at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can hear stories read aloud at *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, and 18.

Films in February

◆ The library invites preschoolers 3 to 5 to watch a series of short *films* at two times on Tuesday, Feb. 25: 10 and 11 a.m.

Family Lapsits

◆ The library's family *lapsit* offers stories, songs, and finger plays for infants and toddlers at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 8 and 22.

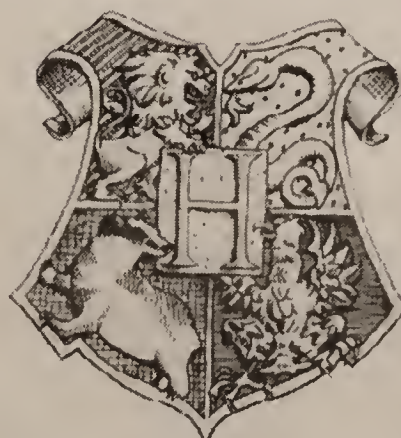
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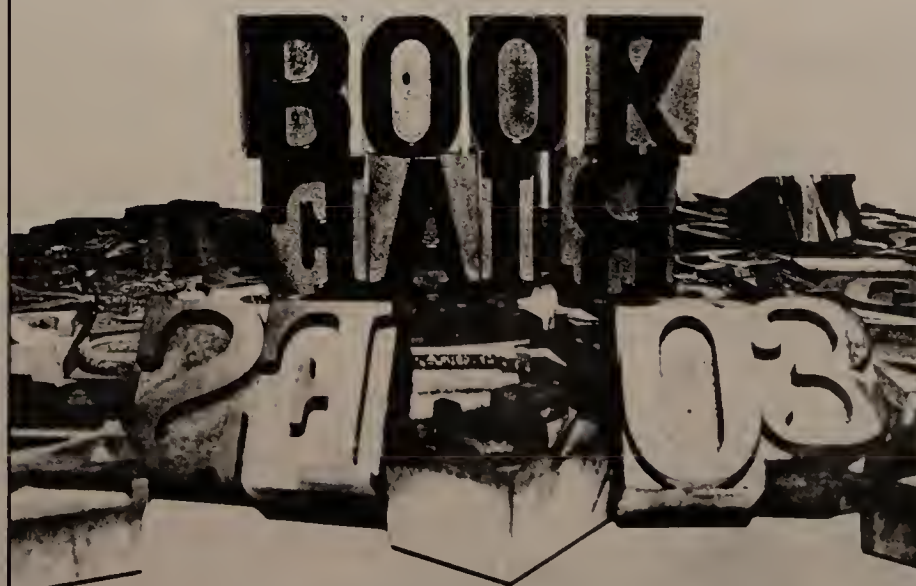
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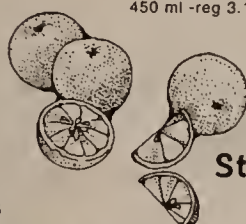
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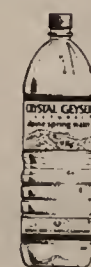
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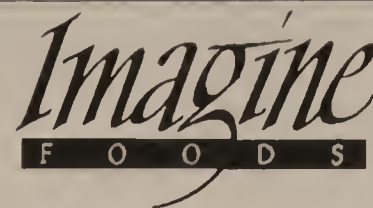
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Castro Area Planning + Action
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
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Friends of Noe Valley
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Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
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Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
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Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lodoosh@pacbell.net
SWMNA web site: www.lodoosh.com
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Upper Noe Neighbors
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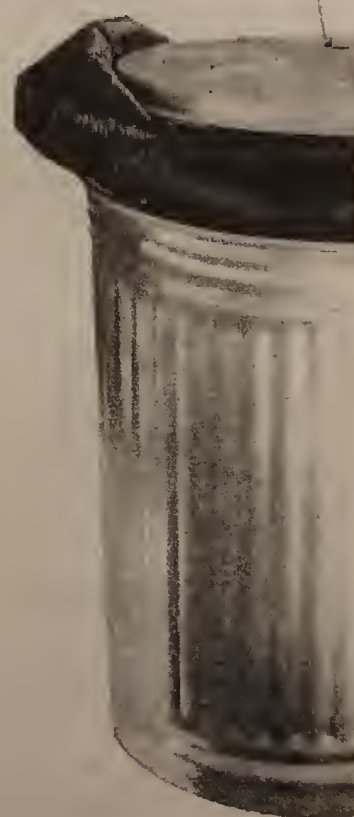


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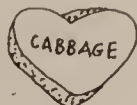
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Yoga Practices for People with Asthma. Learn techniques to strengthen your lungs, increase breathing capacity, and reduce stress or panic during spasms. Minimize dependence upon medications by learning natural, healing approaches. Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 to 9 p.m. \$27. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.



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Short-Term Rental in Upper Noe Valley. Our two-bedroom apartment has been beautifully remodeled and decorated, and is available by the weekend or the week. Enjoy the marble and granite bathroom, a working kitchen, TV with DVD and VCR. Deck, backyard, and laundry access. Well-behaved dog OK, with discussion and deposit. Good street parking with easy walk to public transit. Perfect for guests who are looking for accommodations with personality. Alan, 824-2028.

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Telecom Stuff! Jack connection and cable installation for telephone, computer, cable TV, and stereo. Sales, installation, and repair of telephone systems, voice mail, intercom, security camera, and door entry systems. Free estimates, guaranteed quality work, 10 years experience, reasonable and reliable. Lic. #796389. www.allwired.net. Kent, 468-9400.

Foot Massage/Reflexology. Relaxing, revitalizing, healing 60-minute session. Quiet location. References. 12 years experience. Trained in Asia. Licensed in San Francisco. Call Stephen Cavaliere at Wisdom Fitness of Noe Valley, 415-505-0409.

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Meditation Workshop. This is a practical workshop that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. It's suitable for beginners and more experienced students who want to be inspired. Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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Need Housework? Fifteen years cleaning in Noe Valley. \$15 per hour. Have an every-other Tuesday four-hour opening. If that could work for you, call Stephanie at 282-3176.

Home Health Caregiver Available. Licensed R.N., low hourly rate. No heavy lifting, please. Call Suzanne at 415-282-3301.

Standing Poses Workshop. A variety of standing and balancing poses will be presented in this workshop. These postures build strength to the lower body, help improve posture, and open the energy moving up and down the spine, arms, and legs. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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Thai Yoga Massage and Classical Shiatsu. Light to medium or deep pressure. Comfortable, healthful stretches. 60/90/120-minute sessions, \$75/\$110/\$145. Peaceful location. References. 12 years experience. Trained in Asia. Licensed in San Francisco. Call Stephen Cavaliere at Wisdom Fitness of Noe Valley, 415-505-0409.

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Tired of Feeling Sick and Tired? If you are concerned about your relationship with drugs/alcohol, please call Blair Drummond, Board Certified Alcohol and Drug Specialist, for confidential assessment. 441-2323.

Laughing Meditation. This fun workshop involves some Hatha Yoga poses, extended conscious laughter, followed by a silent meditation. Dress for Hatha Yoga, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful, fun time. Tuesday, Feb. 4 and 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time.)

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the March 2003 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before March. **1. THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS FEB. 15, 2003.**

Note: Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

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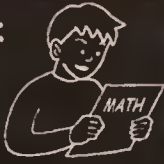
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Welcome Back to Neo Valley

By Mazook

DEVELOPING NEWS: A new group of neighbors who live around the Sanchez and Alvarado intersection is banding together to "Save Sanchez Street" from a residential building project proposed for the property at 949 Sanchez. In fact, Save Sanchez Street is the name of the group.

The small house (900 square feet) that now sits at the back of the property was built on Sanchez Hill in 1905, and gives us a glimpse of how people lived in this suburban neighborhood at the turn of the last century. In the front of the house is a big yard with a garden. At the rear of the property is access to tiny Blanche Alley, a 15-foot-wide street that ends there now but used to dissect the entire block.

After the death of Annette Phillips, who had lived at 949 Sanchez with her husband Jim since 1971 (he predeceased her), the property was sold in 2001 to contractor/developer Mel Murphy. Murphy rented the place out for a year, then announced via letters from the Planning Department last fall that he planned to build a 5,350-square-foot structure consisting of a three-story set of condominiums, two studios, and a parking garage with access to Blanche Alley.

In response, four separate neighbors filed requests for discretionary review by the city and began circulating petitions to "Save Sanchez Street." They also orga-

nized a meeting in January at the house of next-door neighbors Susan Torres and Paul Mayfield. According to Mayfield, 65 people in the neighborhood signed the petition against the project and more than 40 people showed up at the meeting. Many came from Vicksburg Street since their houses also abut Blanche Alley.

The obvious question, from their point of view, was how could a monster home suddenly invade the 900 block of Sanchez, which has maintained its character since the early days of the 20th century. The last houses built on the block date back to the 1920s, and most were built between 1885 and the earthquake of 1906. Owners' remodeling has been in the form of restoration, with great pains taken to preserve the Victorian flavor of the street. Anyone who has seen the oral-history video of 100-year-old Tillie Smith at Noe Valley History Day knows that she lived across the street from 949 Sanchez at the northwest corner of Alvarado and Sanchez, and that she and her neighbors were fond of their life in the "country." (Tillie died about 10 years ago.) A bramble bush still remains in her front yard, and kids still reach over the fence and grab the delicious blackberries when they are in season.

According to one of the new group's leaders, Dick Juhl, Save Sanchez Street has contacted several other neighborhood groups and is on the agenda at both the Friends of Noe Valley and Upper Noe Neighbors' February meetings.

"We are also encouraging people to write protests to Rick Crawford, the city planner on the project, and to our supervisor, Bevan Dufty," Juhl says.

Some of the folks on Vicksburg have suggested that one way to preserve the open space is to get a bunch of people together to buy the property and then turn it into a private residential parking lot. Fat chance that's going to happen. But then

again, the impossible happened at Dan's Gas on 24th Street.

At press time, there were rumors that Murphy might be willing to scale down his project a bit. Let's hope inspections and diplomacy prevail.



I WONDER AS I WANDER: Speaking of Dan's Gas, Tim Leistico, the fellow who is managing the parking lot project for the Noe Valley Ministry, reports that there were no objections filed against the project this past fall, and "we're just waiting for the city to give us our demolition permit." As soon as the church gets that, he says, the wreckers will come in to demolish the old garage on 24th near Sanchez.

As you will recall, the project was first approved more than a year ago (December '01), and the wrecking ball was supposed to be swinging by the next April. Then it was Thanksgiving, then Christmas. Now Leistico's best guess is Valentine's Day. At this rate, we'll be lucky if the paint is dry on the white lines for 29 new parking spaces by St. Patrick's Day.

If you are wondering what will be taking the place of the defunct juice joint at the corner of 24th and Sanchez, join the club. According to the realtor, Riyad Salma, no one has signed a lease yet. He says various kinds of business have expressed interest: "We have had inquiries from people in the food service business, a clothing store, and someone who was going to sell New Age items, but it is still available." The rent? "It's negotiable."

Everybody is wondering what is going to replace Star Bakery, at the corner of Church and 29th streets. Richard Beale, the real estate agent offering the place for rent, tells me it has been leased to someone with plans to open a restaurant, but he doesn't want to elaborate. "I'll have them call you," he says. OK.

The second-to-last item in the "I'm

wondering" category is: What is going into the freshly remodeled space up on Diamond near 24th, next to Edward Jones Investments? Rumor is it's a hair salon.

Finally, aren't you wondering why the new digital parking meters DPT promised us by "the middle of November" have yet to be installed in Downtown Noe Valley? The notable exception is the city parking lot on 24th Street between Le Zinc and Radio Shack, which does have the marvelous little meters that take nickels, dimes, and quarters.

Well, according to Department of Public Works spokesperson Diana Hammons, "Scheduling plans had to be changed because of weather delays, technical problems, and delivery delays of the meters."

Hammons says Noe Valley can expect to go digital by the middle of February and suggests that if you have any more questions about the project, go into cyberspace to the web site www.sfgov.org/dpt/meters.htm for the latest scoop.

In DPT-speak, that means we should have them in sometime after St. Patrick's Day, which looks more and more like St. Parking's Day.



STATE OF THE UNIONS: An expansion project at St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street was the focal point of a "Happy New Year" trade union dispute between the local Carpenters Union and Laborers Union. On Jan. 2, about 30 members of the Carpenters Union set up a picket line in front of the church to stop work from being done by a construction company that employs apparent rival Laborers Union members. Not only did it create a stir in the neighborhood, but the story wound up in the *Chronicle* and in a column by Warren Hinckle on the front page of the *Independent*. St. Philip's is cur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

rently involved in extending its parish hall, which requires shoring up of the church for necessary excavation.

Pastor Michael J. Healy was outraged that his church had been accused of hiring non-union help, which wasn't true. On Jan. 4, Healy wrote a letter to his parishioners explaining why the labor dispute between two unions had created such a disturbance around the church, convent, and school.

Wrote Healy: "I resent that the [Carpenters] union would use the Catholic Church to justify their conflict with another union, and with Granite Construction. All is not fair in love and war. I also resent their abuse of the priesthood, which I represent, and of me personally. They showed no consideration for the elderly sisters in the convent with their drum beating, abusive language, and loudspeakers."

When contacted by the *Voice* a few weeks after the picketing, Healy was still angry. "We had at least 30 union cards [pickets] surrounding our church for 10 days, and the whole thing could have been averted if people had communicated beforehand."

Healy said he had a long conversation with Carpenters Union president Pat O'Halloran, on Saturday, Jan. 25, "and we both wanted to have a reconciliation. He indicated to me that he regretted that action was taken in front of St. Philip's, but he still has his grievances against Granite and the Laborers Union."

Merchants in the area might also have received a letter of regret from the Carpenters Union. Send me a copy, and I'm sure the editors will publish it to broaden the reconciliation.

☎ ☎ ☎

PULL UP A CHAIR: The Fred Methner Memorial Bench that sat outside the Noe Valley Ministry until last Halloween, when some miscreant carted it off, has been replaced. Through the generosity of three families who are members of San Francisco Homeschoolers, you can now sit on a new Lancaster cast-iron and oak bench outside the church at 1021 Sanchez.

Several kids from the Homeschoolers group attend Spanish classes taught by Rennea Couttenye at the Ministry. When their families heard the bench had been stolen and not returned, they went out and



Dennis Haymond, a Bell Market supervisor for many years, died suddenly on Jan. 6. But his last few days were happy. An avid Oakland Raiders fan, he scored tickets to a playoff game.

Photo courtesy of Dennis's Bell Market friends and family

purchased a new one at Home Depot. According to building manager Ramon Sender, the Ministry will also replace the brass plaque honoring Methner, who for decades was secretary of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club. He was a true neighborhood preservationist who actually lived up to the club's motto: "Dedicated to the safety, cleanliness, and well-being of our community."

Thanks should also go out to the Friends of Noe Valley, who made a \$1,000 grant to Alvarado Elementary School, to be used for chairs in the school's library. FNV president Jeannene Przyblyski presented the check to Alvarado principal David Weiner at the Friends' holiday party in December.

Notes Przyblyski, "It came to our attention that Alvarado had no chairs for the kids in their school library. Friends was happy to help make the Alvarado library a nicer place for kids to read and learn."

Folks, the real question is: Why were there no kids' chairs in the Alvarado library?

You might want to attend the next FNV general membership meeting on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, when newly elected District 8 supervisor Bevan Dufty will tell us his ideas and plans for the neighborhood.

☎ ☎ ☎

SO MANY, YET SO FEW: Results of the Dec. 10 runoff election between said Bevan Dufty and Eileen Hansen were tabu-

lated by the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation without controversy. Bevan carried Noe Valley over Eileen by a vote of 3,235 to 2,729.

Those numbers should tell you that the Noe Valley voter turnout was low: a piddly 38 percent of those registered to vote. Not to take anything away from the Dufty victory, but only about 19 percent of registered voters decided the outcome of this important election.

Voter turnout district-wide averaged 38 percent. The top neighborhoods in District 8 were South Bernal Heights, Castro/Upper Market, and Diamond Heights, all with a 41 percent turnout.

Those of you who vote might already know that Supervisor Dufty and mayoral hopeful Susan Leal, currently San Francisco treasurer, both dropped in on the Noe Valley Democratic Club last month. (The Demos meet the third Wednesday of the month—call Dee Andrews, 285-6043.)

Dufty talked about what a great experience the campaign had been and thanked Noe Valleons for their votes. He also expressed support for new board president Matt Gonzalez, even though he admitted that Gonzalez wasn't his first choice for the job.

When the topic of monster homes reared its head, Dufty avoided taking sides, saying monster homes are "a huge issue" and that he is "ready to look" at pending legislation that would curb the monsters.

Former homegirl Leal drummed up support for her mayoral race, reminding

the Demos of her long history in Noe Valley and saying she and her partner hoped to return to the neighborhood soon. She also made a pitch for more affordable housing, saying it's a key factor in bringing in new businesses that would ease the city's unemployment woes.

☎ ☎ ☎

EVERYONE WHO SHOPS at Bell Market on 24th Street was shocked to learn that a supervising clerk, Dennis Haymond, had died suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 6 (of an aneurysm) at age 38.

Haymond used to live in Noe Valley when he started working for Bell Market back in August of 1984. Originally he worked at the California Street store, but he transferred to 24th Street to be closer to home about 15 years ago. Bell manager and Noe Valley resident Enrico Fornesi said, "He will be sorely missed by everyone at this store."

Faye Duca, who has clerked at Bell for 26 years, said the store's employees were pretty shook up. "We're one big family here, and Dennis was really loved, a real people person. We all grew up together." She said Dennis was well-liked by the customers, too, and that "people were so upset" to hear the news.

As a Bell shopper, I could always count on Dennis for a smile, and for help with whatever problem or gripe I might have. For Dennis, the customer was always right. The neighborhood will certainly miss him. Our condolences to Dennis Haymond's family and friends. ☐



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THE LAST PAGE

M E A T

❖ BY JANET THORNBURG ❖

Serving a spinach soufflé was Raymond's first mistake. His father wouldn't even try it, and his mother picked at hers. When Raymond looked pained, his mother said, "Sorry, Ray, guess we're still meat-and-potatoes folks." His father asked for lunch-meat and made himself a sandwich with the Black Forest ham Raymond brought him from the refrigerator, but after one bite he put down the sandwich and asked what the hell was wrong with the bread.

"It's supposed to be sour, Dad. It's a San Francisco tradition."

"Well, what else have you got?"

"Nothing," Raymond said and wished trap-doors would open under his parents and drop them into plastic tubes that would suck them back to their potato farm in Idaho.

"If you don't eat your dinner, you won't get any dessert!" Raymond said.

"Ha, ha," his mother said nervously.

"That's what you used to tell me," Raymond said.

"Did we?" she asked, picking the mint off her carrots.

Raymond had no idea where to go from there, but his father was prepared. "Seems like we saw a steakhouse on the way here, didn't we? Sort of out by the airport? Let's go."

Later, after the steakhouse and after his parents had gone to bed, Raymond fixed himself a plate of cold spinach soufflé and carrots and called Gina.

"Did you pave the way?" she asked.

"Not even close," Raymond said.

"Not to worry," Gina said. "We'll tell them together tomorrow night."

❖ ❖ ❖

RAYMOND WORRIED. On the way home from work the next day, he bought Idaho potatoes and ground round. His parents were watching the news on TV when he arrived. "My friend Gina is joining us for dinner," he called to them from the kitchen.

His mother came right in and sat on a stool next to him as he grated Parmesan cheese for the caesar salad dressing. "A new friend?" she asked.

"No, I've known her for a couple of years. She teaches at City College, too."

"Oh, that's nice. You must have a lot in common."

"Well, actually, we do, but Mom, I'm still with Martin. Gina's a friend-friend, not a girlfriend."

"Well, I wouldn't close any doors," his mother said brightly, cocking her head to one side.

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Gina arrived, and to Raymond's relief she wasn't wearing her studded leather jacket. His parents were cordial, Gina was pleasant, the meatloaf looked perfect, and Raymond felt a rosy glow as he sat down at the head of the table.

"You put onions in this?" Raymond's father asked with his mouth full of meatloaf.

"Oh dear, George can't eat onions," Raymond's mother said. "They don't agree with him."

"I like them, but they don't like me,"

Raymond's father said, pushing his plate away. He leaned back and folded his arms.

Gina watched the flush rising up Raymond's neck. "Barney's!" she said. "The best burgers in San Francisco, and it's only two blocks away. Let's go."



AFTER RAYMOND'S MOTHER had finished her Barney Burger with jack cheese and his dad had finished his Big Barney Burger with cheddar and Gina had finished her Vegi Burger with sautéed mushrooms and Raymond had almost finished his Thai chicken salad, Gina caught Raymond's eye and whispered, "Now!"

"Mom, Dad, uh, Gina and I have something to tell you. She's going to have a baby, and, well, I'm the father."

Raymond's parents looked from Raymond to Gina, then at each other, then back at Raymond.

"So when's the wedding?" Raymond's mother asked cautiously.

"Oh, we're not going to get married. I have a partner," said Gina.

"Oh dear," said Raymond's mother.

"No, it's fine. Marie loves Raymond, too."

"I'm afraid I don't understand," said Raymond's mother.

"Would anybody care for dessert?" the waiter asked, and in unison Raymond and his father said, "Yes!"

❖ ❖ ❖

OVER BROWNIE SUNDAES for the parents and cappuccino cheesecake for Raymond and Gina, the four of them exchanged uneasy glances. Finally, Raymond's mother asked, "When is the baby due?"

Gina grinned and said, "August. August tenth is what they said."

Raymond's father put down his fork and said, "That's my birthday."

"Wow," Gina said. "What if it actually comes on that day?"

After they walked home and Gina drove away, Raymond and his parents went inside, and his dad asked, "Is she sure it's your baby? I mean if she's got another partner and still got together with you, how can you be sure that there aren't others?"

Raymond laughed. "She's not sleeping around. We didn't have sex."

"Well, then how did she get pregnant?"

"Artificial insemination. I just gave her some sperm."

Raymond's father snorted and shook his head. "This is too much for me. I'm going to bed," he said, and he did. Reluctantly, Raymond's mom followed him.

Raymond went to his own room and wondered what they were saying about him and Gina and the baby.

❖ ❖ ❖

THE NEXT DAY, he didn't stop to buy food after work. It was no use. He'd just take them to Barney's or the steakhouse, and the next morning they'd be gone. He couldn't wait.

When he got home, though, the house was empty, and he couldn't imagine where they might have gone. Then he heard voices in the backyard and smelled meat cooking. He opened the back door and saw his dad turning steaks on the barbecue and his mom slicing tomatoes on a TV tray. "Surprise!" she said. "We cooked dinner for you."

"You still like yours medium-rare?" his father asked, and Raymond nodded.

A chilly wind came up, so they took the food inside. During the meal, they talked about things back home, the crops, the new shed, the people who had left and the people who had stayed on. For dessert, his mother brought out homemade shortcake topped with fresh strawberries and heavy whipped cream.

❖ ❖ ❖

NOTHING WAS SAID about the baby, but the next day at the airport, right before they boarded the plane, his mother said, "In August, if you need me, I'll come." She blushed, and she and Raymond's father disappeared into the airplane.

Noe Valley resident Janet Thornburg lives with her partner, Michelle, their two children, Nick and Sarah, and their cats, Aphrodite and Katzanova. Her short stories have been published or are forthcoming in the magazines Carve and In the Family and the literary journals Phantasmagoria, Lumina, The MacGuffin, and The Distillery. She earned her M.F.A. in creative writing from San Francisco State University in 1995, and she teaches English as a Second Language at San Francisco City College. "If I ever strike it rich," says Thornburg, "I'm going to make a sizable donation to the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn branch of the library."

ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL MARSHALL

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